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Kane leads the way as England beats Croatia

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NEARBY

Patchy rainfall across Karnataka

BENGALURU
Though the southwest monsoon arrived in Karnataka on June 4, the State has recorded an actual rainfall of 71 mm as against the normal of 109 mm for the period between June 1 and 18.
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HC upholds Premium FAR scheme

BENGALURU
Upholding the constitutional validity of the State government's Premium Floor Area Ratio (FAR) scheme, the High Court has ruled that the scheme can't be termed as violative. » PAGE 4

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Council polls: Cong. wins five seats amid cross-voting

Result is seen as a shot in the arm for Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who faced his first election after taking over from Siddaramaiah

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

Congress candidates who won in the Legislative Council elections in Bengaluru on Thursday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

The speculation over cross-voting in election to seven Legislative Council seats in Karnataka came true on Thursday, with Congress winning all five seats that it had contested, even as it garnered 11 votes through cross-voting from the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) partners - the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Janata Dal (Secular).

The result is also seen as a shot in the arm for Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who faced his first election after taking over from his Siddaramaiah.

While the BJP, which was left red-faced, has lost at least three votes in cross-voting, the JD(S) that suffered an embarrassing defeat has lost at least four votes.

The confusion over where the four extra cross-votes came to the Congress remains a bone of contention.

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'Telegram evolved into new dark web'

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Thursday submitted before the Delhi High Court that the messaging platform Telegram had evolved into the "new dark web", arguing that its architecture and privacy features had made it a preferred tool for cybercriminals, fraud networks, extremist and terror groups, and operators involved in examination paper leaks.

The government's submissions relied heavily on an Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) assessment that the platform was a growing hub for illicit online activity. The government has restricted access to the platform ahead of the June 21 NEET re-examination.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre during the hearing on Telegram's petition challenging the temporary ban imposed till June 22 under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, told the court that the enterprise behind the messaging app had been repeatedly asked to proactively monitor and curb illegal and suspicious channels on the platform.

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N. Murali appointed Chairman of The Hindu Group Publishing Pvt. Ltd.

N. Murali has been unanimously appointed Chairman of the Board of Directors of The Hindu Group Publishing Private Limited (THGPPL) for a term of three years. He succeeds Dr. Nirmala Lakshman, who stepped down as Chairperson at the Board's meeting on Thursday, June 18, 2026, upon nearing the completion of her three-year term. The Nomination and Remuneration Committee of the Board, chaired by Mr. Krishna Srinivasan, Senior Advocate, unanimously recommended appointment of Mr. Murali to lead the Board at this challenging time for the news media and for professional journalism.

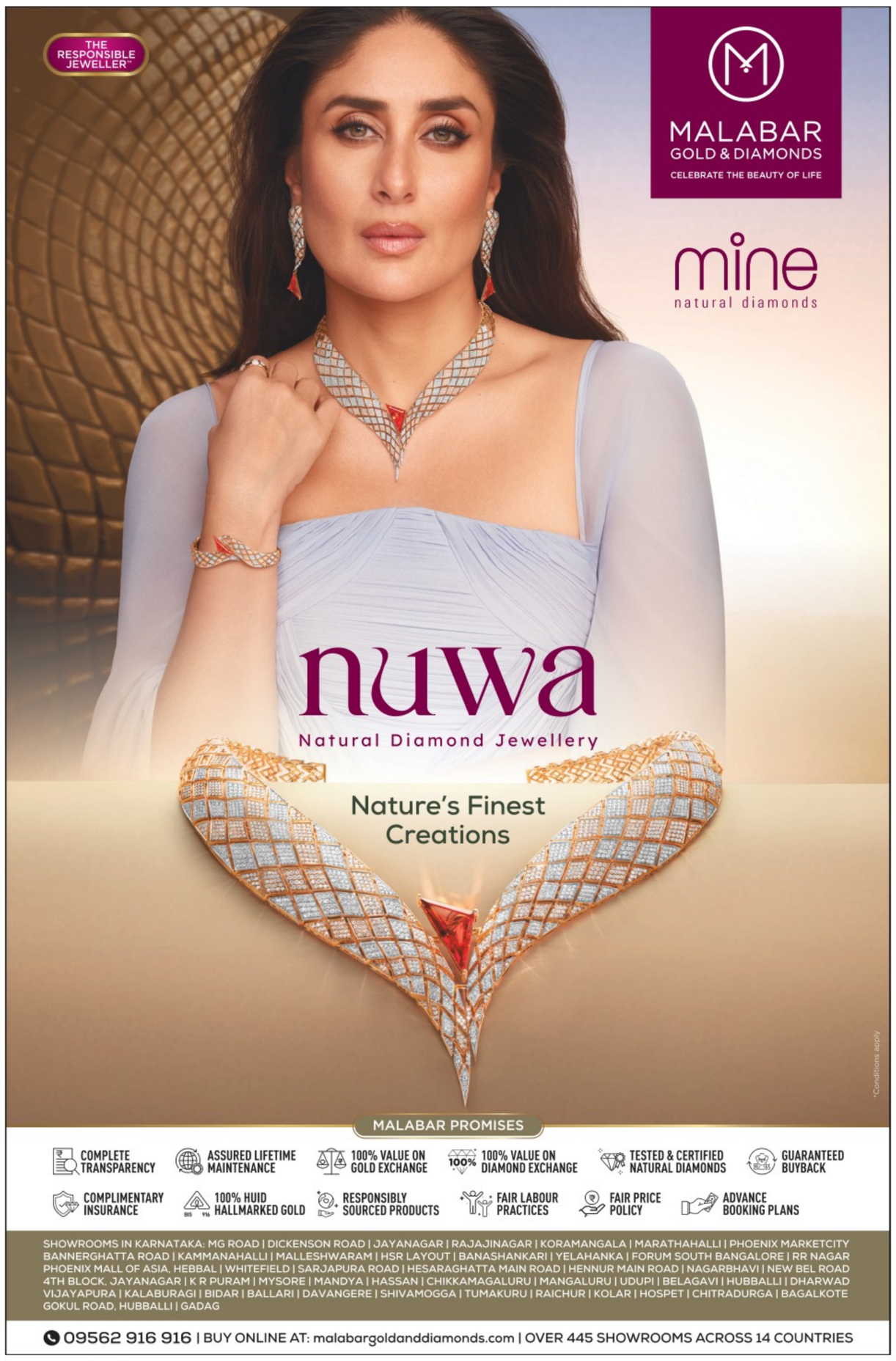
Mr. Murali brings more than 56 years of hands-on experience in the management, business, and financial aspects of the newspaper industry to this role. After completing his school education at the Madras Christian College High School, graduating in Commerce from Loyola College, Chennai, and professionally qualifying as a Chartered Accountant, he joined the family business of *The Hindu* in 1969. He became General Manager in 1977 and Joint Managing Director in 1995. In 2006, he took over as Managing Director of M/s. Kasturi & Sons Limited, publishers of *The Hindu* and other allied publications. He subsequently served as Chairman, Kasturi & Sons Limited (the holding company of The Hindu Group of Publications). Over the last several years, he has been a Director of THGPPL and KSL.

Over the decades, Mr. Murali has served in senior positions in a number of industry bodies: he was President of the Indian Newspaper Society (INS); Chairman, Council of Management, Audit Bureau of Circulations; Chairman, National Readership Studies Council; Chairman, Board of Governors, Advertising Standards Council of India; and Chairman, Board of Trustees of the Press Institute of India-RIND. He was elected as the first Board Member from South Asia of the world's leading association for media publishing, IFRA, Darmstadt, Germany (1998-2004), and served as a Member of the Board of the World Association of Newspapers (WAN), Paris (2005-2006). He is a Trustee of the Media Development Foundation, Chennai, which administers the Asian College of Journalism (ACJ).

He is the President of The Music Academy, Madras.

The Board of Directors of The Hindu Group Publishing Private Limited placed on record its appreciation of Dr. Nirmala Lakshman's contributions to the Group and its publications and the efficient way in which she led the deliberations and proceedings at the Board level.

Board members and employees expressed enthusiasm and confidence that Mr. Murali, with his rich experience and perspectives gained in a field that has witnessed many successes, undergone a series of disruptive transformations, and repeatedly demonstrated resilience and relevance, will lead the company to new heights.



Trump, Pezeshkian sign accord to end war

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN/WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump and Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian signed a deal Wednesday meant to end the war, with Tehran agreeing to dilute its enriched uranium in return for large-scale economic relief.

Mr. Trump put his signature to the memorandum of understanding during a candlelit dinner at the Palace of Versailles following a G7 summit, as host French President Emmanuel Macron and other guests applauded, a video posted by a Trump aide showed.

"Just signed it," Mr. Trump told presspersons as he emerged from the palace.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei, quoted by the state news agency IRNA, said the document "was finalised with the signatures of the Presidents."

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif of Pakistan, who mediated the agreement, said on X that it "shall enter into force with immediate effect".

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Gill — steering India's fortunes

While the larger goal for the classy 26-year-old will be the 50-over World Cup next year, the more enervating battles on the horizon for the young captain would be acquitting himself well in the home and away series lined up as part of the World Test Championship

SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

R. Kaushik

In the 55-year history of men's One-Day International Cricket, there have been only 12 double-centuries, three of them from one individual alone. In no more than a handful of the 4,980 ODIs to date, including game two of the three-match series between India and Afghanistan on Wednesday, has more than one double-centurion figured. Lucknow threw up a rare, but not first, instance of three men who have scored more than 200 in a single ODI innings being part of the same playing XI.

Until Sachin Tendulkar first touched the 200-mark, against South Africa in Indore in February 2010, no one had managed a tryst with the coveted landmark. Several had got frightfully close, not least Saeed Anwar who smashed 194 in the Independence Cup league fixture against Tendulkar's side in Chennai in 1997. It needed the genius of Tendulkar — fittingly, most will aver — for that record to be set straight.

Indian domination

Suppositions that once the Promised Land had been reached, the floodgates would open have remained unfounded, because in the 16 years since, there have been only 11 further scores of 200 or more. Indians have accounted for six of those 11 — with Virender Sehwag following his hero into the record books before a currently active threesome joined that exclusive club.

Rohit Sharma, the former skipper, is in a league of his own with three 200-plus knocks including a gargantuan 264, the highest individual score in an ODI innings, against Sri Lanka at the celebrated Eden Gardens. Just when Rohit might have started to feel lonely, Ishan Kishan, unexpectedly, broke through with a phenomenal 210 against Bangladesh in Chattogram in December 2022. A month later, it was the turn of Shubman Gill to create his own slice of history, in Hyderabad against New Zealand.

Such is the embarrassment of batting riches at India's disposal that, until recently, they haven't been able to find a place in the larger squad, let alone the playing XI, of prodigal son Kishan, who owes his current No. 3 position to the hamstring injury that has temporarily put Virat Kohli out of commission.

Rohit's a past master whose deeds are well chronicled. On Wednesday, he showed glimpses of his best form with a sparkling 48 that was cut short by a Rashid Khan googly that homed in on his stumps via the inside edge. The reasonable gathering at the Ekana International Stadium which had braved a scorching June sun was gutted at Rohit's dismissal because clearly, and especially with Kohli not around, most of them had come to watch the graceful right-hander in action. They had to make do with just an appetiser, but little did they — or anyone else — know when Rohit made his slow walk back to the dressing room that the main course was just ahead of them.

Gill has become a more complete and rounded batter equally felicitous off front foot and back, on off-side and on, against pace and spin

Gill and Kishan are the best of mates, an odd couple because the former is a very serious sort of individual while Kishan, despite becoming a little more controlled in the last couple of years, is a fun-loving free spirit who livens up the atmosphere wherever he goes.

Insiders have spoken with admiration and respect of how Kishan was the livewire even when he wasn't a part of the playing group, ensuring that any air of negativity was effortlessly and immediately dissipated without treading on toes or ruffling feathers. Kishan is now a less visibly playful version of his previous self, but clearly, he is still the entertainer who carries the reputation of being an excellent mimic — and no one, we have been informed, absolutely no one is excluded from his mischief-list.

Kishan's remarkable return

Kishan's reintegration with the national side in January after more than two years in the international wilderness is one of the great stories of modern-day Indian cricket. Since his return to the limited-overs set-up, he has reiterated his value time and again, providing the impetus in the T20 World Cup that India so desperately needed in the early stages and then holding his own even towards the business end when Sanju Samson walked away with all the encomiums.

He showcased his leadership skills, honed in domestic cricket with Jharkhand whom he steered last season the T20 Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, when he was the stand-in captain in IPL for Sunrisers Hyderabad with Pat Cummins awaiting the green signal from Cricket Australia and has been irrepressible with the bat, the clincher coming in the form of his second ODI hundred when, alongside Gill, he annihilated the over-matched Afghan outfit.

Gill is in one of those extended purple patches that defy logical explanation. Oh wait, the logical explanation is that he has worked terribly hard at ironing out kinks and adding to his repertoire, thereby becoming a more complete and rounded batter equally felicitous off front foot and back, on off-side and on, against pace and spin. He has also become a fitter, more driven and intense version of himself though a chronic neck injury, which has already reared its ugly head from time to time, will come back to haunt him going forward as well.

From the time he made his Test debut in Melbourne in December 2020, bang smack in the middle of the Covid pandemic, it was clear that the world was Gill's oyster provided he stuck to the straight and the narrow. At the Under-19 World Cup in New Zealand in January 2018, Gill had showcased his fluency, batting at a level way above the rest of his peers; Gill was identified then as one for the future, with the caveat 'if he continued to progress along expected lines'.

By then, there already had been numerous instances of Under-19 'stalwarts' losing their way when they graduated to the senior ranks, for one reason or the other. Why, even Gill and India's captain at the aforementioned World Cup, Prithvi Shaw, himself is now on the outer looking in, this despite celebrating his Test debut in October 2018 with a sparkling century against West Indies in Rajkot. So, if there was an asterisk against Gill's name, it wasn't so much because one doubted his skills and his mental fortitude, but more as a matter of cautionary routine.

Conviction

Gill initially blew hot and cold, but he was never going to fade away into oblivion, he was never going to self-destruct, that much was apparent. That he sought, and got, the No. 3 slot in the Test batting line-up in the Caribbean in July 2023, showed that he had the courage of conviction to approach the think-tank (of captain Rohit and head coach Rahul Dravid) and ask for what he thought was his best spot. It took him a few innings to start firing, but once he made a century in Visakhapatnam against England in February 2024, the classy right-hander was up and running. In grand style.

Within the decision-making rungs, Gill had already been identified as the leader-in-waiting — Prince is the moniker that has stuck to him — and Ajit Agarkar's panel wasted little time in naming him Rohit's successor in the five-day game when the Mumbaikar called it quits last May.

In his first series as skipper, Gill responded with spectacular prolificity. Armed with the more complete game we alluded to earlier, he racked up runs for fun; a mountainous 754 runs from five Tests, and four centuries (he hadn't scored a Test hundred outside Asia before previously) was evidence enough that he could separate Gill the batter from Gill the captain.

The 2-2 scoreline with a young side minus the retired trio of Rohit, Kohli and R. Ashwin held out the promise that he would grow into a tactically more astute skipper, a promise affirmed by the growing strides he made as a strategist as the Test series unfolded.

Just about the only blip, and it is a big one, is his unexpected recall and equally abrupt ouster from the T20I set-up. Some might say it is only a matter of time before Gill breaks back into the shortest format, given his outstanding run in IPLs historically and especially this year, when he finished the second highest run-getter behind Vaibhav Sooryavanshi. But how will the selectors find a place for him in a top order where apart from Samson and Kishan and Sooryavanshi and Abhishek Sharma, a host of others are jostling for attention?

Never mind. For now, Gill is the Test and ODI captain, and that's where his focus should be. This month alone, following his grand run in the IPL which yielded 732 runs, Gill's scores against Afghanistan read 126, 84 not out and now 154, a ridiculously unhurried, untroubled, unprepossessing contribution in the Lucknow cauldron when he smashed 22 fours and two sixes to ensure he didn't have to expend too much energy running between the wickets.

The first of these three big scores came in the one-off Test in New Chandigarh; the two other efforts have come in the ODIs, both earning him Player-of-the-Match awards. It won't be fanciful to assert that the only reason he doesn't have a hat-trick of international hundreds against Afghanistan in the last fortnight is because the visitors simply didn't put enough runs on the board in the truncated (25-overs-a-side) first ODI in Dharamsala last Saturday.

With due respect to the Afghans, India's tougher challenges are ahead, both immediately and in the not-so-distant future. While the larger goal will be the next 50-over World Cup, in Africa in less than a year and a half's time, there are other enervating battles in store.

India are languishing mid-table in the World Test Championship, their reputation as tigers at home in tatters following dramatic meltdowns against first New Zealand and then South Africa. Two-Test tours of Sri Lanka and New Zealand lie in wait before the year is out; India need victories and points as much as they need their captain to set the tone as lead batter. Those two sojourns, as well as the five-Test home face-off against Australia from January, will go a long way towards shaping Gill's leadership legacy even at this early stage of his captaincy stint.

Sole point of focus

The World Cup will be the sole point of focus once the Australia series is done and dusted. Only Kapil Dev and Mahendra Singh Dhoni have held aloft the ODI World Cup trophy. It was close but no cigar for Rohit at home in 2023.

Gill has a ways to go before he can start dreaming about World Cup glory as player and captain, but who can blame him if that idea has started to take the faintest of forms?

THE GIST

- In his first Test series as skipper in 2025, Gill piled up 754 runs from five matches, a tally that included four centuries
- Following his superb run in the IPL with 732 runs this season, Gill's scores against the visiting Afghanistan have read 126, 84 not out and 154
- Gill needs to set the tone as the lead batter in the two-Test tours of Sri Lanka and New Zealand before taking on the Australians at home over five matches

Gill and Kishan are an odd couple because the former is a very serious sort of individual while the latter is a fun-loving free spirit

‘Ward roadworks will be completed in 6 months to meet public expectations’

A special grant of ₹2,000 crore has been released for the development of the roads in the five corporations under GBA, as announced earlier, says Krishna Byre Gowda

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda took a swipe at civic agencies over the frequent digging up of roads, attributing it to poor coordination among departments. FILE PHOTO

Claiming that people’s expectations were running high after the new Cabinet assumed office, Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda on Thursday said the estimate preparation and tender process for the repair and development of internal and ward roads would be completed within the next two months, with the road works expected to be completed within four to six months.

Addressing the media after a meeting on solid waste management, Mr. Gowda said the government had introduced several initiatives to meet public expectations and had now decided to prioritise the improvement of deteriorating ward roads across Bengaluru. A special grant of ₹2,000 crore has been released for the development of the roads in the five corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), as announced earlier, he said.

“I have directed the GBA Chief Commissioner and Commissioners of the five corporations to identify damaged roads in their jurisdiction, prepare estimates, complete the short-term tender process and begin the works at the earliest,” he said, adding that officials have been instructed to accord priority to the project and ensure that implementation is not delayed.

> Officials have been instructed to accord priority to the project and ensure that implementation is not delayed
>
> **KRISHNA BYRE GOWDA**
> Bengaluru Development Minister

Stating that improving road conditions remains one of the key demands of the Bengaluru residents, the Minister said the grant would also be used to upgrade deteriorated ward roads in addition to the ongoing works on arterial and sub-arterial roads.

“I am aware that these timelines fall during the monsoon season. However, the works will be taken up whenever weather conditions permit, and there will be no compromise on quality,” Mr. Gowda said.

The Minister also took a swipe at Bengaluru’s civic agencies over the frequent digging up of roads, attributing it to poor coordination among departments. “This has been happening since the days of Ramakrishna Hegde, when I was a school boy. Roads are repaired, but within a few months agencies such as the Bescom and BWSSB start digging them up again. The problem is the lack of coordination,” he argued.

“Road asphalting works would be taken up in coordination with all agencies concerned and in accordance with a Standard Operating Procedure,” he said, adding that strict action would be taken if roads are dug up without prior permission.

Authorities, citizens must work together to eliminate garbage black spots: Gowda

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Krishna Byre Gowda says there is a shortage of staff and mostly garbage collection vehicles continue to operate without GPS tracking despite court directions mandating it. SUDHAKARA JAIN

The government will not wait for the new waste management system to be rolled out and will instead focus on improving garbage collection over the next three months, Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said on Thursday, while directing officials to ensure door-to-door waste collection to eliminate garbage black spots across the city.

“Instructions have been issued to ensure door-to-door garbage collection. While the task is difficult and requires considerable effort, garbage will be collected from every household to eliminate black spots across the city,” he said.

Speaking after a review meeting on solid waste management, the Minister said waste management had become a daily challenge for the city and acknowledged the frustration of residents over the issue. While new tenders are being processed, he said immediate steps were needed to improve the existing system.

The Minister said that separate tenders have been floated for waste collection and waste segregation. Of the 33 collection tenders, six are currently before courts, while the remaining 27 are in the final stages of processing.

Many existing vehicles are in poor condition, there is a shortage of staff and mostly garbage collection vehicles continue to operate without GPS tracking despite court directions mandating it, he said.

“The problem is not entirely with the civic authorities,” the Minister said. While residents cooperate with waste collection efforts in nearly 70% of areas and officials are aware that collection remains irregular in about 20% of localities, garbage continues to be dumped on roads in some areas even when collection vehicles visit regularly, he said. “People say the vehicle should come at a particular time, but that is not always possible. It is practically impossible to keep lifting garbage 24 hours a day,” he said.

The Minister said the persistence of garbage black spots was neither good for public health nor for the city’s appearance. “This problem can be solved only when both the civic body and citizens work together,” he said.

He added that officials would be held accountable wherever waste collection was found to be irregular and called on residents to report such instances.

Inspection reveals garbage collection autos marked present despite not being at spot

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following repeated public complaints about waste collection, North City Corporation Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar conducted a surprise inspection of auto merging points across the city on Thursday morning and found that attendance had been marked for several garbage collection autos that were not physically present at the designated locations.

Staff shortage

The inspection also found a shortage of staff in many garbage vehicles, with several autos absent from their assigned routes.

The surprise inspection was conducted at 5.45 a.m., with four teams deployed across the corporation limits to inspect auto merging points. The inspections were carried out at the waste collection point near Wheeler Road Flyover, KHB Colony in Ward 49, Banaswadi, and HBR Layout. At the Wheeler Road Flyover merging point, officials found that while only 21 of the 32 assigned garbage collection autos were present, attendance records showed 24 vehicles as operational. Attendance had already been marked for seven vehicles before the Commissioner arrived. In Ward 49 (Lingarajapura ward), only 10 of the 25 assigned autos were found at the location, even though attendance records showed that 23 vehicles were functioning.

In Banaswadi, only 17 of the 35 assigned autos were present.

Crackdown intensifies: Drug abusers booked under NDPS Act

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The police have registered 10 cases against individuals caught consuming drugs in this week alone. The drive is part of an ongoing crackdown on drug abuse, launched under the directions of City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh.

According to the police, the initiative aims to achieve two objectives simultaneously: curbing drug abuse and dismantling drug supply networks. By booking drug consumers and gathering information about peddlers, the police hope to contain the growing menace more effectively.

Similar cases have been registered at police stations across the city as part of the intensified enforcement drive. The police believe that tracking such cases will help them study the operating patterns of drug peddlers and identify areas where narcotics are being distributed.

The majority of the cases involve marijuana consumption, while a smaller number relate to the use of synthetic drugs, a police officer said.

Meanwhile, citing the increasing number of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) cases, the city police have approached the government seeking additional drug detection kits. Officials said that greater availability of these kits at police stations would help expedite investigations and preliminary testing, reducing dependence on forensic science laboratory (FSL) teams and speeding up the registration and processing of cases.

Sub-inspector under scanner for messaging woman complainant

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A police sub-inspector attached to the Varthur Police Station has come under scrutiny after a city-based activist alleged that he contacted her on WhatsApp months after she had shared her phone number while filing a police complaint.

The victim raised the issue on the city police’s social media handle, alleging that the official used her contact details, originally provided for official purposes, to initiate a personal conversation nearly nine months after the complaint was lodged.

According to screenshots shared by the victim , the PSI allegedly enabled disappearing messages and enhanced privacy settings before sending a casual greeting on WhatsApp. When questioned about the reason for contacting her, he reportedly apologised and did not provide a satisfactory explanation.

She subsequently tagged Bengaluru City Police Commissioner and Bengaluru City Police officials on X, questioning whether such conduct by a police official was appropriate.

Responding to the post, the office of the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Whitefield Division, acknowledged the complaint on X and directed Varthur Police Station to look into the matter.

The incident has reignited concerns about privacy

The matter is currently under inquiry.

Special deposit scheme for NRIs

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Canara Bank has announced its FCNR (B) Special Deposit Scheme, designed to help Non-Resident Indians improve their savings while investing in India. It comes in line with the recent measures announced by the Reserve Bank of India to encourage foreign currency inflows into the nation, according to the lender’s communique. Under the Special Deposit Scheme, customers could earn interest on deposits denominated in foreign currencies, with high interest rates and capital protection features, it added.

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NOTICE OF THE 104th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, E-VOTING AND BOOK CLOSURE INFORMATION

Notice is hereby given that the 104th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the members of the **Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited,** will be held on **Tuesday, July 14, 2026** at 11:00 A.M. IST through Video Conferencing (“VC”) / Other Audio Visual Means (“OAVM”) without the physical presence of the members at a common venue, in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and rules made thereunder, read with MCA circular (vide General Circular No. 03/2025 dated September 22, 2025), and in compliance with the applicable provisions of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, to transact the businesses as set forth in the Notice of the AGM.

The Bank has sent the 104th AGM Notice along with the Annual Report for the Financial Year 2025-26 on June 18, 2026, through electronic mode to the members whose e-mail address(es) are registered with the Registrar & Share Transfer Agent (RTA) / Depository Participant(s), as per the data downloaded from Registrar & Share Transfer Agent (RTA) / Depository Participant(s) as on June 12, 2026, in compliance with aforesaid MCA Circular and the applicable provisions of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.

The Bank has also sent a letter containing the web link, including the exact path and complete details of the Annual Report, to the shareholders who have not registered their email address(es) with the Registrar & Share Transfer Agent (RTA) or Depository Participant(s).

Further, members may also download the copy of the 104th AGM Notice and the Annual Report for the Financial Year 2025-26 from the website of the Bank www.tmb.bank.in under ‘Investor’s Relations’ section, from the website of Central Depository Services (India) Limited (“CDSL”) at www.evotingindia.com and from the website of Stock Exchanges i.e., BSE Limited at www.bseindia.com & National Stock Exchange of India Limited at www.nseindia.com. The copies of the said documents are also available at the registered office of the Bank for inspection on all working days during the business hours up to the date of 104th Annual General Meeting.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 (the “Act”) and the rules made thereunder and in compliance with the Regulation 42 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (“SEBI LODR”), the Register of Members and Share Transfer Books of the Bank will remain closed from Wednesday, July 08, 2026 to Tuesday, July 14, 2026 (both days inclusive).

Members can attend and participate in the AGM only through VC / OAVM. The instructions for joining the AGM through VC / OAVM is provided in the Notice of the AGM.

In accordance with the applicable circulars issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, the Bank is providing to its Members facility to exercise their right to vote on resolutions proposed to be passed at the AGM, by electronic means (“e-Voting”). The Bank has engaged the services of Central Depository Services (India) Limited (“CDSL”) as the agency to provide e-Voting facility.

The remote e-Voting schedule is as under:

Commencement of e-Voting	Saturday, July 11, 2026 at 9:00 A.M. IST
End of e-Voting	Monday, July 13, 2026 at 5:00 P.M. IST

Voting rights of a member / beneficial owner (in case of electronic shareholding) shall be in proportion to his/her/its shareholding in the paid-up equity share capital of the Bank as on the cut-off date, i.e., Tuesday, July 07, 2026 (“Cut-off Date”).

Additionally, the Bank is providing the facility of voting through e-Voting during the AGM for the members who have not exercised the remote e-Voting facility earlier. Detailed procedure for remote e-Voting / e-Voting during the AGM is provided in the Notice.

In case of any queries, you may refer the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Shareholders and e-Voting user manual for Shareholders available at the download section of www.evotingindia.com or call on: 1800 21 09911 or send a request to Mr. Rakesh Dalvi at helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com.

Shareholders may note that, pursuant to the Income Tax Act, 2025, dividend income is taxable in the hands of the Members and the Bank is required to deduct tax at source (“TDS”) from the dividend paid to the Members at prescribed rates as mentioned in the Income Tax Act, 2025. In this regard, we had already sent mails on May 22, 2026 and June 08, 2026, to all the shareholders who had registered their email address with the Bank / RTA.

Members may note that as per extant guidelines of SEBI, it is mandatory for shareholders holding securities in physical form in listed entities, to furnish PAN, Bank account details, Specimen Signature, Contact Details and Address. With effect from April 01, 2024, SEBI has mandated that all dividends shall be paid only after submission of all the above-mentioned particulars. Henceforth, the Bank’s RTA i.e., MUFG Intime India Private Limited, will attend to all service requests of the shareholders with respect to transmission, dividend, etc., only after updating the above details in their records.

By Order of the Board of Directors
For Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited
Sd/-
Swapnil Yelgaonkar
Company Secretary
(Membership No: ACS 21877)

Date : 18.06.2026
Place : Thoothukudi

Five-year-old boy killed in wall collapse

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A five-year-old boy was killed and another child was injured after a compound wall and gate of a house collapsed on them while they were playing near their residence in Bandikodigehalli, near Bagalur, on Wednesday.

The deceased has been identified as Afrin. Another child, Samanvi, sustained injuries in the incident and was undergoing treatment. According to the police, the incident occurred around 6.30 p.m. when three children were playing near a compound gate. While they were holding onto the wall during play, the compound wall suddenly gave way and collapsed on them, triggering panic in the locality.

Local residents rushed to the spot and shifted the injured to a nearby hospital. However, Afrin succumbed to his injuries.

The house where the incident occurred belongs to Narasappa. Preliminary investigations revealed that the wall had reportedly developed cracks earlier, which may have weakened the structure and led to the collapse. The police have registered a case against the owner of the house.

Autopsy report in 6-year-old girl murder case indicates foul play

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The autopsy report of six-year-old girl Vennela, dated March 25, 2026, a copy of which *The Hindu* has accessed, indicates foul play. But the FIR was only registered on June 4.

The Kadugodi police registered only an Unnatural Death Registry report on March 25, the day the girl was found dead.

The same day, the post-mortem report concluded the cause as “Death is due to combined effect of asphyxia as a result of obliteration of airway and blunt force trauma to the abdomen sustained”. The report lists seven ante-mortem wounds, all ante-mortem-sustained before death-all in the facial region of the child, in the nasal area, below the chin, left maxillary region.

References to “asphyxia as a result of obliteration of airway” and “blunt force trauma to the abdomen” clearly indicated foul play, a police official said.

However, the police not converting the UDR report into a murder case has raised questions. This has come under scrutiny and three police personnel have been suspended. The complainant, Praveen, the deceased girl’s father, said he had separated from his wife, and the girl was living with her mother. He said his brother-in-law informed him of the girl’s death on the morning of March 25.

He said his wife Priyanka claimed the girl ate biriyani from outside, slept and was found dead on March 25, while she also claimed that the girl had slept in a car with AC on the previous evening and was found dead the next morning. He said in his complaint that he sent the autopsy report to a doctor who flagged indications of foul play.

Beyond 'depression' and 'anxiety': how young Adivasis describe distress

Mental health systems frequently assume that emotional suffering will present itself in clinically recognisable forms. But in many Adivasi communities, distress may be communicated through stories, metaphors, or withdrawal from social life. When professionals fail to understand these expressions, the communities begin to appear 'silent'

Sachin Barbde
Christianez Ratna Kiruba

The 2015-16 National Mental Health Survey estimated that 7% of adolescents aged 13-17 years, experience mental health problems. PHOTO: SETUWORKS

Dumbi, a tall, muscular teenager, walks silently outside his village, which consists of about 70 houses, mostly of the Adivasi Ho community, in Jharkhand. He lost his father when he was in Class 5. Now 16, and as an elder brother to three siblings, he has to both study and provide economic support to the family.

For Dumbi, football had earlier been a major source of joy. Friends regularly invited him to matches in nearby villages. But over time, he stopped playing almost entirely. The burden of caring for the family at the age of 15 made him sullen and withdrawn, and also led to his habit of drinking locally-brewed liquor, as a coping mechanism.

Mental health is gaining ground in our everyday conversations, thanks to increased awareness, battles to beat stigma and a growing number of people with lived experience who are talking about it. The people at the forefront of these conversations, however, remain primarily urban-centric and from privileged socio-economic groups. Young people from Adivasi communities remain missing from most of these conversations.

India has the largest population of indigenous communities in the world. And yet, information about the mental health of these communities is scarce.

Globally, mental health problems affect nearly one in seven adolescents aged 10-19 years, with anxiety, depression, and behavioural disorders among the most common conditions. India has one of the world's largest adolescent populations, but mental health support for young people remains deeply inadequate. The 2015-16 National Mental Health Survey estimated that 7% of adolescents aged 13-17 years, experience mental health problems, though most are unlikely to receive any formal care.

Deep inequities

Evidence from rural and Adivasi communities in mental health research remains remarkably limited despite these communities constituting around 9% of India's population. What makes this lacuna even more concerning is that Adivasi communities continue to face deep social, economic, environmental, and health inequities, with the most affected being young people.

The available research suggests that the burden may be substantial and widely neglected. A survey among Adivasi adolescents in Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, and Meghalaya reported a 16% prevalence of mental disorders, more than double the national estimate for adolescents. Another survey among adolescent girls in rural Adivasi blocks of Jharkhand found that 12% experienced symptoms of emotional or behavioural distress.

These numbers, however, reveal only part of the story.

Poverty and mental health

For many young Adivasi people, family responsibilities begin at an early age. Financial insecurity is the norm rather than the exception. The most basic of needs including clothing and school costs are difficult to meet, a reality that Adivasi children understand from a very young age. But this premature awareness frequently comes at the cost of adolescence itself, quietly compressing what should be a carefree period with constant worry, restraint, and emotional burdens they are inadequately prepared for. When this is compounded by the loss of one or both parents, it often places adolescents under intense emotional and psychological stress.

What appears in these children externally as "maturity" is often chronic anxiety and emotional exhaustion. These experiences rarely enter formal mental health statistics and go unrecognised by the system, but they shape the emotional worlds of Adivasi adolescents every day.

Migration intensifies this burden. Seasonal migration has long existed among Adivasi communities as a response to chronic poverty and land insecurity. What often remains invisible are the emotional costs of this transition: loneliness, uncertainty, grief, interrupted education, substance use, fractured social ties, and a growing sense of disconnection from both village and city life.

Yet distress is not always expressed in ways recognised by formal mental health systems.

In recent work with Adivasi adolescents in rural Jharkhand, researchers found that young people, caregivers, teachers, and community health workers often described distress through local idioms, bodily complaints, silence, irritability, social withdrawal, or changes in behaviour rather than psychiatric labels such as "depression" or "anxiety".

This has important implications.

Expression of distress

Mental health systems frequently assume that emotional suffering will present itself in clinically recognisable forms. But in many Adivasi communities, distress may be communicated through stories, metaphors, behaviour, or withdrawal from social life. When professionals fail to understand the expressions, communities themselves begin to appear 'silent'.

The problem, therefore, is not merely that Adivasi youth do not seek help. It is also that systems often do not know how to hear them.

There is another quiet transformation taking place in villages: the erosion of intergenerational spaces. Ajay, a young community facilitator in one village from Jharkhand, reflected recently that earlier, evenings were spent sitting with elders, listening to stories and experiences. "That was our learning space," he said. "Now most young people spend time outside villages on their smartphones ."

This reflects the weakening of informal spaces where emotions, identity, memory, and belonging were once shared collectively.

What is needed

India's response to mental health among Adivasi youth cannot be limited to expanding psychiatric services into rural areas, though accessible care remains essential. A more meaningful response requires strengthening community spaces, reducing social and economic precarity, listening to local languages of distress, and creating systems where they can speak without fear or shame.

Mental health among Adivasi youth is not only a medical concern. It is also a question of dignity, justice, cultural continuity, and whether young people are allowed to imagine a future beyond survival.

Until India learns to pay heed to these quiet forms of suffering, many a youth like Dumbi will continue walking silently at the margins of our collective attention.

With inputs from Yadav Leyangi, Pankaj Pan, Savitri Banra and Kamala Pan.

(Dr. Sachin Barbde is a public health physician working with Adivasi communities in Jharkhand on community-led mental health initiatives. sachin.ekjut@gmail.com; Dr. Christianez Ratna Kiruba is an internal medicine physician and a freelance health journalist based in Guwahati, Assam. christianezdennis@gmail.com)

THE GIST

People at the forefront of conversations on mental health remain primarily urban-centric and from privileged socio-economic groups. Young people from Adivasi communities remain missing from most of these conversations

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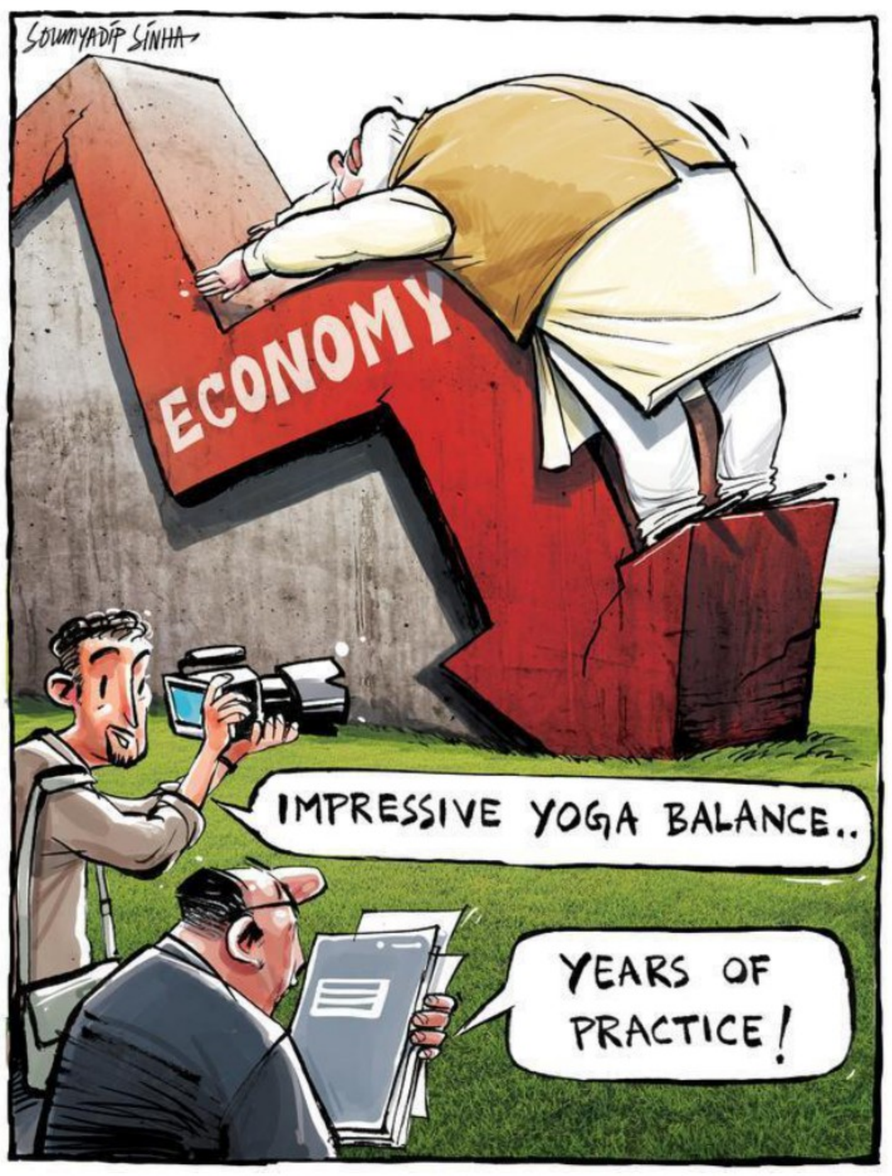
HUMERUS



Children with vitiligo deserve freedom from stigma and the burden of misinformation

Sabaresh Pandiyan

When a child walks into a classroom, their biggest worry should not be whispers, stares or insensitive jokes about their skin. Yet, for thousands of children living with vitiligo - a chronic condition where patches of skin tend to lose pigment - this is a reality.

Vitiligo is a medically harmless, non-contagious condition. Misunderstandings and stigma about it, however, persist. While children may have completely normal health even with the condition, what is often overlooked, is the impact it has on their mental well-being.

Self-esteem dents

Childhood is a period of development, where self-esteem is developed, confidence is built and a social identity is created. Children suffering from vitiligo tend to be very conscious of their appearance at an early age.

Unlike adults, children may not fully understand the condition themselves, and therefore are less equipped to navigate the curiosity it invokes, or dispel misconceptions and the social scrutiny that comes with it.

The true burden of vitiligo is rarely found in the skin itself: it is found in the silent stigma that children face. GETTY IMAGES

Many children tend to feel 'different' from their friends and peers. Sometimes this can lead to non-participation in school events and a preference for clothing that covers their entire body, even in the hot weather, to avoid drawing attention and unwanted questions.

Bullying and name-calling is one of the significant concerns faced by children with vitiligo, followed by exclusion from peer groups, and repeated questioning or comments, even they are harmless. This takes a psychological toll and the result could be that the child withdraws socially.

This heightened awareness about their appearance may lead to chronic stress as well as anxiety, causing the child to experience loneliness, mood changes, and to exhibit symptoms of depression. Adolescents are significantly more vulnerable as during their teenage years, they are more susceptible to concerns of appearances, belonging and acceptance.

What needs to change

Widespread awareness in the community is what matters most when it comes to vitiligo, since the greatest challenge faced by children with the condition is misinformation.

The condition is often assumed to be caused by poor hygiene or believed to be contagious: neither fact is true.

Simple initiatives inside the classroom can make a difference, as when children understand that vitiligo is an autoimmune disease and poses no health risk to others, the stigma and fear related to it will reduce substantially.

Teachers and parents play an important role here in identifying signs of emotional distress, declining academic performances or reluctance to attend school. It is very important to provide children with emotional support and to demonstrate that vitiligo must not define a person's ability, future or worth.

The true burden of vitiligo is rarely found in the skin itself: it is found in the silent stigma that children face. Our collective goal must be that no child feels different, or less worthy, due to the skin they live in.

(Dr. Sabaresh Pandiyan is a consultant in psychiatry at Rela Hospital, Chennai. drsabaresh@relainstitute.com)

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Amount sought by UN food agencies to shield people from El Nino

202 million dollars. The UN's Food and Agriculture Organization and World Food Programme on Thursday appealed for $202 million to help protect 8.8 million people across 22 high-risk countries from theEl Niño weather pattern. El Niño may raise drought, flood and storm risks across several regions, FAO and WFP said. REUTERS

Ration cards to be issued after deleting ineligible entries

3 crores. Union Food Minister Pralhad Joshi on Thursday said there is scope for issuing nearly 3 crore more ration cards to eligible beneficiaries after some States removed 2.21 crore ineligible holders from PDS lists. Addressing the launch of a smart warehousing system, he said the deletions were carried out by States following their own criteria, not by the Centre. PTI

Dip in Saudi tourism this year because of Iran-U.S. conflict

5-6 in percent. Saudi Arabia's tourism sector slowed by 5% to 6% in the first five months of 2026 compared to last year because of the Iran war, Tourism Minister Ahmed Al-Khateeb told the FII PRIORITY Europe summit. He added that Saudi Arabia was able to hedge the impact of the war on travel because of religious tourism. REUTERS

Amount to be disbursed under PM-VBRY on Friday

2,400 ₹ crore. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will disburse ₹2,400 crore through Direct Benefit Transfer to over 15 lakh beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana (PM-VBRY) on Friday, Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said. Mr. Modi will disburse the funds during an event at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. PTI

Number of schools which had registration cancelled in U.P.

465 The U.P. Board has cancelled the recognition of 465 schools for the sessions 2024-25 and 2025-26, citing that the recognition granted to school is deemed cancelled under provisions of the Intermediate Education Act if no student appears for exams or classes are not conducted for two years. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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What is Kerala's risk profile for Nipah?

How do ecological and human factors intersect in driving spillovers? Will it be possible to prevent recurrent spillovers events? What has Kerala learnt from the multiple outbreaks? What makes Kerala's Nipah response effective in containing outbreaks? Why is Nipah classified as a high-threat pathogen within Kerala's zoonotic landscape?

EXPLAINER

C. Maya

The story so far:

Kerala's first encounter with Nipah virus (NiV) was in 2018, which identified 23 cases (including 18 lab-confirmed ones). The case fatality rate was 91% and there were two survivors. Since then, Kerala has recorded numerous spillovers of NiV.

In 2019, a lone case was identified in Ernakulam and the person survived the infection. In 2021, a 12 -year-old boy was detected with the infection in Malappuram. In 2023, Nipah resulted in a cluster of six cases in Kozhikode. Two single cases each were reported from separate spillover events from Malappuram, in July and September in 2024. In 2025, four cases of Nipah were reported from two districts, Malappuram and Palakkad and epidemiological investigations reported that none of these cases appeared to be linked to each other, suggesting independent spillover events from the natural reservoir.

NiV has resurfaced again in Kozhikode now and a 43-year-old, who tested positive for the virus, is battling for life at Kozhikode Medical College.

Why is Nipah recurring in Kerala?

Research has consistently identified the Indian flying fox bat (*Pteropus medius*) or the fruit bat as the natural reservoir of Nipah virus in Kerala. Serological studies and viral detection in bats have shown that the virus is circulating in bat colonies in the State, particularly in northern districts.

In the 2018 Kerala outbreak, about 25% of the sampled bats were found to be positive for Nipah viral RNA and in subsequent events too, bat samples had revealed the presence of NiV.

The Pteropus species are found across the State and very near human settlements. A mapping study of bat-roosting sites by Kerala Forest Research Institute's Department of Wildlife Biology had found that almost all of the roosts were near human habitats, increasing the risk of zoonotic exposure.

Why is Nipah spillover risk highest in Kerala between April and September?

The recurrent NiV spillovers in Kerala with fair regularity suggest that the virus has established itself in the environment. The peak Nipah virus spillover risk in the State is from April to September, when the abundance of seasonal fruit-laden trees, increased bat foraging activity, bat breeding season and viral shedding dynamics coincide, increasing the risk of human exposure. This pattern has not changed in Kerala since the very first outbreak.

Because of the perennial natural virus reservoir in the State, it might not be possible to prevent recurrent NiV spillover events in Kerala.

What makes Kerala particularly vulnerable to zoonotic diseases?

It is the convergence of ecological, demographic, climatic factors and increased human-wildlife interface that makes Kerala a special lab for zoonotic diseases.

The Western Ghats, which stretches along the State's eastern flank, is one of the world's richest biodiversity spots and the tropical rainforest climate sustains several hundred species of birds, reptiles and mammals. But only about 1,60,000 sq. km of this rich biosphere is formally protected. The high population density in Kerala and the increased presence of human settlements, plantations, and agricultural lands immediately adjacent to and along the forest fringes increases the opportunities for human-wildlife interactions and facilitates exposure to novel pathogens.

Scientific literature links emerging zoonoses to deforestation, habitat fragmentation, urbanisation and agricultural intensification. When wildlife habitats are disturbed, the animals are forced into closer contact with human settlements and cultivated food sources. Scientists also warn that climate-related ecological disruptions could be important contributors to future spillover risk in the case of Nipah.

Nipah is just one among Kerala's broader zoonotic risk profile, which includes other pathogenic diseases like Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD), leptospirosis, scrub typhus, Japanese encephalitis, West Nile fever, rabies and avian influenza.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has warned Kerala to be on the vigil about some high threat pathogens (HTPs) – Nipah, Avian Influenza (H5N1) and KFD – which have a high mortality profile and high transmissibility with pandemic potential. Nipah has been classified by the WHO as a priority pathogen because of its lethality, unpredictability and its alarming potential to cause widespread outbreaks or even the next pandemic.

How is Kerala responding to the recurrent threat of zoonotic events like Nipah?

The recurrent spillover incidents in Kerala has primed the health system about the importance of sharp and coordinated disease surveillance, rapid pathogen identification and containment efforts to ensure that human-to-human transmissions do not occur, resulting in a wide outbreak.

The 2018 brush with Nipah took the health system by surprise. Of the 23 cases identified in the outbreak, only the index case had contracted the infection in the community. All the remaining cases were due to nosocomial transmission (the spread of pathogens within healthcare facilities) in three different hospitals.

Kerala used the 2018 experience as an opportunity to develop a clinical algorithm for all emerging viral infections at tertiary care levels, strengthen diagnostic and research capacities and augment standard infection control practices in hospitals. Clinicians in the State have become adept at maintaining a high index of suspicion when they encounter unusual cases of acute encephalitis syndrome and to watch for clustering of cases.

The State now has a stringent system for monitoring all acute encephalitis cases of unknown etiology, screening of severe respiratory infections as well as early lab confirmation and detection of pathogens through its expanded Virus Research and Diagnostic Laboratory (VRDL) networks and intensive health emergency management measures.

In all its Nipah outbreaks, the health system's public health response has demonstrated that it can rapidly identify the index case and swiftly contain the event. After the initial event, human-to-human transmission has occurred only once in 2023.

How is Kerala strengthening its preparedness against recurring Nipah outbreaks?

The recurrence of Nipah in Kerala and the State's swift public health response every time has been a demonstration of the resilience of the State's health system. With the State harbouring a natural reservoir of Nipah virus and a perennial risk of virus spillovers, the Health department's focus has been on creating community awareness about the situation so that the bat-human interface is reduced.

As part of its 'One Health' strategies, it has developed a massive community-based surveillance network supported by over 2.5 lakh trained volunteers at the grassroots, who track and report unusual disease trends, including unusual animal or bird deaths, to enable early detection of zoonotic outbreaks such as Nipah and Mpox.

In 2023, the State set up the One Health Centre for Nipah Research and Resilience at Kozhikode, which has been focusing on building community awareness, resilience and capacity to minimise spillover events and to mount a swift response to any such events.

It has documented every single outbreak in Kerala and prioritised Nipah research for the future, focusing on disease epidemiology, sero surveillance studies and host factors research.

The State government, along with National Institute of Virology (NIV), is also involved in a project to develop indigenous monoclonal antibodies against Nipah, specific to the Bangladesh strain of NiV circulating in Kerala.

Renewed alert: Nipah virus has resurfaced in Kozhikode now, with a 43-year-old patient battling for life at the Government Medical College Hospital. A security guard installs a warning board outside Nipah isolation ward at the hospital on June 11, 2026. K.RAGESH

The WHO has warned Kerala to be on the vigil about some high threat pathogens

THE GIST

A mapping study of bat-roosting sites by Kerala Forest Research Institute's Department of Wildlife Biology had found that almost all of the roosts were near human habitats, increasing the risk of zoonotic exposure.

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High Court upholds Premium FAR scheme

The scheme, introduced under Section 18-B of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act, 1961, does not violate Articles 14, 21, or 300A of the constitution, says the Bench

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Upholding the constitutional validity of the State government's Premium Floor Area Ratio (FAR) scheme, the High Court of Karnataka has ruled that the scheme can't be termed as violative of the Constitution of India while dismissing the petitions, which had claimed that it violated property rights and eroded the value of Transferable Development Rights (TDRs).

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C.M. Poonacha delivered the verdict while dismissing the PIL petitions filed Citizens' Action Forum, Vijayan Menon and other civic activists, and landowner Krishnamurthy N.A.

The Premium FAR scheme, introduced under Section 18-B of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning (KTCP) Act, 1961, does not violate Articles 14, 21, or 300A of the Constitution, the Bench said.

High Court of Karnataka

What it allows
The Premium FAR scheme allows property owners to purchase additional construction rights over and above the ordinarily permissible FAR by paying prescribed premium charges in a bid to facilitate vertical development and generate revenue for urban local bodies.

It was argued on behalf of petitioners that introduction of Premium FAR – which allows developers to purchase additional building rights at rates significantly lower than the market cost of TDRs – had rendered TDRs, secured by the landowners in lieu of monetary compensation for the land, as "nugatory." It was also contended that premium charges, ranging from 28% to 50% of the notional land value, for availing Premium FAR placed TDR holders at a severe disadvantage, particularly when factoring in additional costs like stamp duty on TDR transfers.

Policy decision
However, the Bench rejected these arguments while holding that "the policy decision of the State government that results in fluctuation of the values of property would not render the policy as violative of Article 300A" while noticing that landowners were not compelled to secure only TDRs as compensation as they were not curtailed from opting for monetary compensation.

While analysing the zonal framework governing additional FAR in Bengaluru, the Bench said that Premium FAR is not universally available for all properties, while pointing out that scheme creates a protected zone for TDR holders on plots abutting roads with a width of 9 metres or greater but less than 12 metres. On such roads, the Bench pointed out, the additional FAR of 0.6 times the base FAR is available only by loading TDRs as developers cannot utilise Premium FAR in this zone and must acquire TDRs from their holders.

The Bench also noted the undisputed data presented by the government showing that approximately 85,000 out of 1,08,240 roads fall within this 9-to-12-metre width category and hence it would be difficult to accept that there will be no demand for TDRs in this extensive zone.

Even for plots abutting roads wider than 12 metres, the Bench pointed out that the norms impose limits as the maximum Premium FAR that can be loaded is restricted to 0.4 times the base FAR, while the balance 0.2 times can be utilised only through TDRs. Any developer, seeking to maximise permissible additional FAR would necessarily have to acquire TDRs for at least 0.2 times the base FAR, the Bench observed.

Bengaluru's lowest FAR
"It is not disputed that there are several cities in the world, where the permissible FAR is higher. The permissible FAR in Bengaluru is amongst the lowest. According to the State, there is enough headroom to increase FAR," the Bench said while stating that the petitioners could not establish that "an increase in FAR would be debilitating to the quality of life in the city."

Prison officials deny ex-inmate's allegations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Authorities at Bengaluru Central Prison have rejected allegations made by a woman identified as Sandhya Nagaraj regarding conditions and activities within the women's wing of the prison.

According to an official clarification issued by prison authorities, Sandhya Nagaraj, who had previously been lodged in the prison as an undertrial inmate, recently made statements to certain Kannada media outlets alleging irregularities in the women's section of the facility.

In response to these claims, prison officials conducted a surprise inspection of all rooms in the women's wing on June 11, 2026, in the presence of women officers and staff. The inspection reportedly found no prohibited items, and all materials present were said to be in accordance with prison regulations.

The following day, the Deputy Inspector General of Prisons (South Zone), Bengaluru, visited the women's wing and conducted inquiries with inmates and staff members.

Authorities stated that the investigation found no evidence supporting the allegations raised by Ms. Nagaraj.

KERC moots lower rate for solar power from consumers using subsidy

Rashmi Patil
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) has released a draft notification of the revised solar power tariffs for a period of three years from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2029.

The rates issued are different for different kilowatts generated and also depends on the production volume. These rates will be applicable to solar power generated under various solar power projects, including PM Surya Ghar Yojana and Distributed Solar Photovoltaic (DSPV).

The time limit for people to raise objections has been extended till June 30, 2026 following which a public hearing will be held and prices finalised.

As per the revised tariffs, if consumer is generating electricity by installing solar panels without receiving any subsidy from the government, the price at which the consumer sells the extra power generated to the grids is high. If consumers have received subsidy from the government, the rate for electricity supplied to the grid has been fixed at a lower rate this time.

If electricity is generated up to 10 kilowatts without receiving any subsidy from the government, the rate is fixed at ₹3.03 per unit. Under the PM Surya Ghar scheme, if the consumers have received subsidy from the government, the rates are different and depends on the units generated. Henceforth, for one to two kilowatts, the government will pay decreased amount of ₹1.87 per unit, for two to three kilowatts, they will pay ₹2.05 per unit, and for more than three kilowatts, it is ₹2.49 per unit.

Until now, the government paid a tariff of ₹2.30 per unit for one to two kilowatts, ₹2.48 per unit for two to three kilowatts, and ₹2.93 per unit for more than three kilowatts of electricity generation to consumers who supplied the electricity generated from solar energy to the grid. Under the Central government's PM Surya Ghar scheme, there is a target of generating solar power on the roofs of 1.02 lakh houses in the State. Already, 80.96 MW of electricity is being generated in 20,152 houses. A total of 6,354.74 MW of solar power is being generated in the State from various sources.

Not only roofs, but also courtyards, car parking spaces, and walls can now be used to generate electricity by installing solar panels. Customers can use the electricity and sell the rest to the grid, said the notification. The notification also stated, "The Central government is providing subsidy ranging from a minimum of ₹30,000 to a maximum of ₹78,000 for solar power generation. Some consumers are taking advantage of this and are coming forward to generate electricity. While they also consume the power generated from this, the surplus power is sold to the power distribution companies."

The revised rates will be applicable from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2029, stated a draft notification by KERC. FILE PHOTO

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, JUN. 19	
RISE 05:54	SET 18:48
RISE 10:04	SET 22:52
SATURDAY, JUN. 20	
RISE 05:55	SET 18:48
RISE 10:58	SET 23:32
SUNDAY, JUN. 21	
RISE 05:55	SET 18:48
RISE 11:49	SET 00:00

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	15
Mysuru	31	20
Bengaluru	26	22

Bengaluru Today
32°C The weather will be little warm. Night will be pleasant. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
31°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm. Few spells of moderate to heavy rain and thundershower to occur.

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THE HINDU
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KSPCA urges special welfare measures for pregnant women police

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Police Complaints Authority (KSPCA) has urged the State police head to introduce special welfare measures for pregnant women police officers and personnel, including exemption from weekly parade duties and the provision of a mandatory weekly off.

The KSPCA proposed that women police personnel with children below the age of three should not be assigned night shifts, citing childcare responsibilities and the need to ensure the welfare of both mother and child.

In a letter addressed to the Director-General and Inspector-General of Police (DGP & IGP) M.A. Saleem, KSPCA member Mohan Kumar Danappa highlighted the unique challenges faced by pregnant women serving in the police force and called for a humane approach. The letter noted that while weekly parades and drills are essential for maintaining discipline and physical fitness, such strenuous activities may pose health risks to pregnant personnel and their unborn children. It pointed out that the demanding nature of police work, often involving round-the-clock duties, can adversely affect the health and well-being of expectant mothers. Mr. Danappa recommended that pregnant officers be exempted from weekly parade activities and be granted a compulsory weekly holiday during pregnancy. He also suggested that they be spared from physically demanding assignments.

Stranded tribals to return today

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Three members of the Hakki Pikki tribal community from Shivamogga, stranded in Mozambique after losing their documents, have received assistance from the High Commission of India in Mozambique.

They are set to return to India on Friday, according to R. Punith Kumar, State president of Hakki Pikki Budakattu Sanghatane.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of my client **Sri.Sridhara.T.V S/o Late Venkatappa** to bring the notice of the general public that Original registered absolute sale deed bearing doc.No.JPN-1-11299-2013-14, dated. 13.02.2014, registered in the office of the sub-registrar J.P.Nagar, Bangalore is missing /lost/ misplaced in respect of schedule property.

If any person/s, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned document or schedule property, they may contact the undersigned in writing within **14 days** from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing **Site No.302,** presently Tavarekere Gramapanchayathi E-Khata No.3741/302, PID No.150200301700403821, carved out of land bearing Sy.Nos.136/1 & 136/6, Katha No.3592/302, forming part of approved residential layout known as RAYNAL GARDENS, situated at **Tavarekere Village, Tavarekere Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore,** measuring East-West : **12 Mtrs** and North-South : **9 Mtrs**, in all measuring **108 Sqmts (1162.5 Sq feet)** and bounded on :

East by : 9 Mtrs Road, West by : Site No.319, North by : Site No.301, South by : Site No.303.

H. Prahlada, Advocate & Solicitor,
For H.P.Law, #2, 3rd Floor, Venkateshwara Complex, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore-560022
M : 7760061073

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that my Client intends to purchase the residential property more fully detailed in the Schedule hereunder from its present owners **(1) Smt. Lakshmamma** wife of Late G. Basavaraju and **(2) Mr. B. Vasu** son of Late G. Basavaraju residents of No.25, Yashodha Nagar, Opp Jakkur Areodram, Jakkur, Bangalore North Taluk, Bengaluru.

If anybody, either natural or juristic person/entity, is having any objection, claim, demand or dispute for the above intended sale transaction in respect of the schedule property or is having any right, title and or interest including but not limited to either whole or any part thereof by way of Sale, exchange, mortgage, charge, gift, maintenance, inheritance, transfer of title or beneficial interest under any Agreement or under any decree, order or award or otherwise claiming howsoever are hereby requested to make the same known in writing together with supporting documents within **FIFTEEN (15) days** from the date of this public notice to the undersigned, failing which the claim(s) of such person(s) will deemed to have been waived off and/or abandoned and our Client shall proceed with the Sale Transaction without any further notice or intimation, as if there are no claim(s) over the Schedule Property from anyone.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the ***Property bearing Khaneshumari No.13, Khatha No.202/20, now comes under BBMP Limits Property bearing No.20/20/13, situated at Jakkur Plantation, Yashoda Nagar, Opp Jakkur Aerodrume, Bangalore-560064, having E-Aasthi No.1356420580, Ward No.7, Byatarayanapura, measuring East to West 40 feet and North to South 50 feet, totally measuring 2000 sq ft along with 1400 square of ground and first floor building construction constructed*** thereupon with all civic amenities and bounded as follows.

East by : Private Property, West by : Site No.14, North by : Private Property, South by : Road

Shivashankar P. M
Balesh R Ghennanavar
Advocates
523, 4th Cross, NGEF Layout,
Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru-560 072
Mobile : 9916521720

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NOTICE TO LOCKER HIRERS

We hereby notify the Bank's intention to break open the below mentioned locker for recovery of locker rent arrears for more than **3 (three) years** Since the customer cannot be located by the Bank. The lessee to visit the branch on or before **18/09/2026** to avoid further proceeding.

Sl. No	Locker No	Rent Arrears in (Rs.)	Name	Address
1	CC83	Rs.15,665.01/- As On 30/04/2026 Plus Other Charges W.e.f 01/05/2026	Sonia Tewathia	301,Block -4 , Suncity Apts Sarjapur , Outer Ring Rd, Iblur, Bangalore-560001. Mobile No. 9646250516

Place : Bangalore
Date : 18.06.2026
Branch Head,
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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ANKITA VIJAY THAKKAR D/o Vijay Prabhudas Thakkar R/o Site No–558 House No–101 1st Floor 11th Cross VIIBC Society Veeranyapalya Main Road Nagavara A C Bengaluru Karnataka–560045 I have changed my name to ANKITA and I have also changed my religion from HINDUISM to ISLAM.

I, BABU Kumar Pandiyan, Son of Sri Subramani resident of No.7, Maruthi Nagar, BEML Nagar, K G F-563115, do hereby change my name from Babu Kumar Pandiyan to Babu Kumar Pandiyan.S, as per my Court Affidavit Regd. No.15188, dtd:17-06-2026 duly signed by Thangaraj. S, Public Norary, K G F.

I, ANOOP Singh Negi R/A, Khubani Khas, PO Dhauntiyal, Sub Dist: Lansdowne, Dist: Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhad-246155 hereby declare that my Minor son's names Ayansh Negi and Ayaan Singh Negi both belongs to him only, henceforth he shall be known and called as Ayansh Negi only for all legal purposes Vide affidavit Dated 15.06.2026 before Notary Uday Kumar.K, Bengaluru-24

WE SAWALRAM (father) & Jashoda Devi (mother) R/A 1st Cross, 1st Main, Babanagar, IAF Post, Yelahanka,Bangalore- 560063 Hereby declare that Our Minor Daughter's names Lalitha Kumari and Lalita Kumari belongs to her only, henceforth she shall be known and called as Lalita Kumari for all legal purposes vide affidavit dated: 05.05.2026 before Notary H.Sridhar Rao, Bengaluru-64

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, No. 6396530N, Rank: Hav, Name: Soundar.V, Son of Sri Varadaraj, residing at No. 296, New Oriental Line, Coromandal Post, K G F-563118, do hereby change my name from V.Soundar to Soundar.V, as per my Court Affidavit Regd. No.15190, dtd:17-06-2026 duly signed by Thangaraj. S, Public Notary, K G F.

I, RAKOTI Gowrieswari Dependent of Rakoti Hemanth Rao resident of D No.1-70, Main Veedhi, Sarubujjili (Vill, PO, Mandal), Srikakulam Dist, Andhra Pradesh-532458 have changed my Name from Rakoti Gowrieswari to Rakoti Gowrieaswari Vide Affidavit Dated 17/06/2026 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, Bengaluru

I, A.Thennarasi wife of No. 6396530N, Rank: Hav, Name:Soundar.V, residing at No. 296, New Oriental Line, Coromandal Post, K G F-563118 do hereby change my name from A.Thennarasi to Thennarasi.A, as per my Court Affidavit Regd. No.15191, dtd: 17-06-2026 duly signed by Thangaraj.S, Public Norary, K G F.

OLD AGE HOME

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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
NOTIFICATION
Bengaluru, 2nd June 2026

S.O. 2834(E). - In exercise of the powers conferred under clause 37(A) of Section 2 of the Railways Act, 1989 (Act no. 24 of 1989), the Ministry of Railways, (South Western Railway, Construction Organisation, Bengaluru Cantonment) Government of India, hereby notifies that the projects mentioned in the table below are "Special Railway Project" in the State of Karnataka for providing National Infrastructure for a Public Purpose with effect from the date of publication of the notification in the Official Gazette.

SN	Name of the Project	Village	Taluk	District
1	Quadrupling between Bangarapet – Jolarpettai (Kettandapatti) (73.30km)	Kettandapatty, Kudiyankuppam, AthurKuppam, Thiriyalam, Vettapattu, Pachoor,Bandarapalli, Bynapalli, Kothur R.F.	Natarampalli	Tirupathuru
		Jolarpettai	Tirupathuru	
		Nandibanda R.F. Kottur R.F.	Bargur	Krishnagiri
		T. Sadumur, Ponnangur, Mottakadirinur, Avulanatham, Chekkunatham, Vasanadu, Peddagopanapalle, Kungegowniyur, Mulakalapalle, Pedda Bangarunatham, Ekarlapalle, Kuppam, Yanadipalle	Kuppam	Chittoor
		Maldepalle, Nakkanapalle, Kotapalle, Kakinayanichigurlapalle, Cheekatipalle, Irisiganipalle, Vengepalle, Gudupalle, Ontipalle, Avulathimmanapalle, Athinatham	Gudupalle	
		Tanimadagu, Ramasandra, Armanhalli, Bodgutki, Pura, Chik Yalachimande, Dasarlahalli, Janugutta, Kamasandra, Vattikallu, Dodderi, Paravannalli, Vardapur, Chakranhalli, Kelkoppa, Marvahalli, Desihalli, Bangarapet	Bangarapet	Kolar

No.W.271/CN/BNC/2026-27/Land SRP/1727

For details log on : https://egazette.gov.in

Sd/-
(Pardeep Puri)
PUB/228/AAS/PRB/SWR/2026-27 **Chief Engineer-III/Construction, Bengaluru Cantonment**

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OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

The family and friends deeply mourn the demise of

Mrs. J RENGANAYAGI (79yrs)
W/o. late RJS Mariappan, Scientist DRDO
Expired on 18.06.2026
"She fought the good fight; she finished her race; she kept the faith" (adopted from 2 Timothy 4:7)
Fondly remembered by
Son & family : Mr Rajeshkumar J, Mrs Jayareena Rajeshkumar & Mr Roshan Samuel Raja R
Daughter & family: Mrs Anitha Joyce, Mr Vincent Chelliah, Andrew Jerry C & Abishek Joshua C
89252 84777 | Ct: 94449 27804

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

FIRST ANNIVERSARY

DOB: 17.07.1957 DOD: 19.06.2025
Mrs. R.PRAMEELA
W/o. R.Jeevankumar
You are in our hearts forever
Fondly Remembered by
Family members

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES

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IN THE LIMELIGHT

A landmark leap: A still from the movie *Boong,* which was the first Indian film to win a prestigious BAFTA award, the British equivalent of the Oscar, in the children's film category in 2026. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Silent scream that lingers: *Boong*'s quiet reckoning with patriarchal injustice

Beyond the engaging drama of a boy's longing for his long-missing father, the film touches upon the complex gender dynamics of Manipuri society; it also compels viewers to pause and reflect on the deeply embedded patriarchal structures, urging much-needed social introspection

Pradip Phanjoubam

The Manipuri movie *Boong* written and directed by Laxmipriya Devi and co-produced by Farhan Akhtar, was understandably celebrated in Manipur for its cinematic brilliance, and for the pride it brought the place, after all it was first Indian film to win a prestigious BAFTA award, the British equivalent of the Oscar, in the children's film category in 2026. I watched it with my family on the third day of its theatrical release in Imphal.

Beyond the engaging drama of a boy's longing for his long-missing father, and the intimate glimpses his search offers into the complex and emotionally fragile inter-community relationships in multi-ethnic Manipur, the film also struck a deeper, raw nerve among the Manipuri audience.

As the show ended and lights flooded back into the theatre, there was a palpable sense of catharsis – the kind that good performing arts leave behind. Yet, some women remained seated, quietly wiping off tears, taking a few extra moments to regain composure before rising to join the rest of the audience.

Manipur's gender equation reality is complex. At one level, women have historically been at the forefront of many social, economic and political upheavals. Across both the hills and the valley, exclusive women-run markets thrive, and in the agrarian economy, men and women function as equal partners. The fact that the director of *Boong* is a woman reflects this sinew of gender empowerment too.

The Meira Paibi movement amongst Meiteis, which also manifests under different nomenclatures amongst hill communities, is the most prominent alibi of Manipuri women's well-deserved image as social torchbearers.

During the colonial period, in 1904 and again in 1939, women rose to protest against British policies, ultimately forcing their withdrawal. These uprisings are now commemorated as *Nupi Lan* or women's war.

The first was against the forced labour of Manipuri men to rebuild the British Residency in Imphal, which had been gutted in an arson attack by disgruntled elements; the second opposed the large-scale export of rice from the State to support the British World War II effort, which led to severe shortages for local consumption.

Patriarchy persists

Despite this, there are strongly entrenched gender oppressive patriarchal norms which have persisted. This is especially true among Meiteis, who continue to carry the albatrosses of a feudal past. Polygamy is arguably the most troubling.

The practice persists since it is normalised, even though not encouraged. This is particularly common among the elite section, where keeping mistresses or even taking more than one wife, is not uncommon. Many of Manipur's current set of Ministers and MLAs would be guilty of this despicable feudal legacy.

The hurt and humiliation endured by women who suffer this fate are profound. Even those who are spared often live with anxiety over the vulnerability of their daughters and loved ones. As the practice has become normalised within society, this deeply gendered anguish largely remains invisible.

Women often become gatekeepers of the patriarchal order that oppresses them, reflecting what Frantz Fanon characterised as the silent desire of the oppressed to emulate their oppressors. Hence, even women vigilantes tend to overlook men who betray marital fidelity, accepting it as destiny. However, if a woman were to make this breach, these same vigilantes often become the harshest moral police.

Change, however, may not be too far away. Although, no study has yet established a connection, rising cases of divorce among younger Meiteis may be a herald of Fanon's "mailed fist".

In the spirit that good art is hiding good art, *Boong* succeeds in drawing up a non-dogmatic but piercing portrayal of this inherent gender injustice. Boong's father, Joykumar–a carpenter and timber trader played by Hamom Sadananda – works along the India-Myanmar border, in the town of Moreh and the neighbouring township of Tamu in Myanmar.

At some point, the family loses contact with him and for a prolonged period. Many presume he is dead or has joined the insurgents, but the family refuses to give up. Boong, or Brojendro, played by Gugun Kipgen, yearns to find his father and bring the good news to his mother Mandakini, played by Bala Hijam.

On one occasion the boy dupes his mother that his school was organising a 2-day school excursion to Ukhrul district and would like to be part of the tour. He then slips away to make a trip to Moreh instead. His bosom friend, a Manipuri Marwari, Raju Agarwal, played by Angom Sanamatum, follows him there out of concern. The families of the boys learn of the trip but too late. The two boys' adventure is thrilling. Boong traces his father in Tamu, but to his horror, discovers that he has remarried and has a daughter.

The final scene is powerful. Boong finds his mother, on crutches after a scooter accident, waiting for him at their courtyard. Both know the truth – and both know that the other knows. The boy tells his mother bluntly "Baba is dead". The camera then closes in on her. She pauses a while before asking in resignation, "Is he doing well?" Boong replies, "Yes'' and hugs her.

Bala's breathing deepens; her face reddens, and her eyes well up. She is forced to confront what she had long suspected but tried not to believe. Not a word is spoken, yet her tearing pain, numbing humiliation, and seething anger surface – along with a quiet resolve to remain standing for the sake of her son.

For those sensitive enough to hear it, her silent, agonised scream is deafening. For many others who have endured this betrayal themselves, or have witnessed loved ones suffer it, Bala's silent scream becomes their own.

Powerful as this portrayal of an invisible oppressive order is, life may well settle back into its old, abnormal normal. Yet, for many, Bala's silent scream affirms that *Boong* is, at its heart, a desperate appeal for social introspection.

Pradip Phanjoubam is Editor, Imphal Review of Arts and Politics, and the author of two books.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know Your English

S. Upendran

How is the word "blasé" pronounced? (A. Karthik, Nagpur)

The "a" in the first syllable is pronounced like the "a" in "bath", "path", and "calf". The "e" is like the "ay" in "day", "bay", and "say". The "s" is pronounced like the "z" in "zebra", "zoo", and "zip". As for the main stress, some dictionaries have it on the first syllable, while others have it on the second.

When you are blasé about something, you are not excited or worried about it; though those around you may find it exciting or important, etc. Of course, this impression that you create that you are bored and not excited could be just an act! Here are a few examples.

When Shyam's parents heard that he had won two million dollars, they were excited. But he was very blasé about it.

Unlike her father, Sushmita is very blasé about parties.

Why is a person who helps deliver a child called a "midwife"? (S. Bakthavatsalam, Chennai)

There are several theories about the origin of the word. Some argue that the word "mid" stands for "middle"; the midwife was a go-between the child and the mother! Considering the fact that we live in an age when we need middlemen for everything, this explanation may appeal to many. Unfortunately, it is not accepted by the pundits.

An explanation that is accepted by many is the following. The word "wife" (though it was spelt "wif" originally), I understand, in Old English meant "woman". In fact, the original word for "woman" was "wifman" – "wif" meaning "woman" and "man" meaning "human being". The word "mid" comes from the Old English "mid" meaning "with". So, a "midwife", as you can probably guess, was a "woman" who stayed "with" the mother and helped her deliver the child.

What is the meaning and origin of the expression "show a leg"? (L. Mukund, Kozhikode)

When you tell someone to "show a leg" what you want him/her to do is to get out of bed. Instead of telling someone to "wake up", you can tell him/her to "show a leg" or "shake a leg".

The idiom has its origins in the British navy. Before 1840, when the rules were fairly lax, sailors were sometimes permitted to take their wife/girlfriend along with them. While the sailors were expected to report for duty early in the morning, the wives/girlfriends were allowed to sleep on in the quarters down below. To ensure that a lazy sailor was not sleeping downstairs, an officer went down to check. Whenever he came across someone sleeping and wasn't really sure if it was a man or a woman under the covers, he used to shout, "show a leg". The person under the blanket had to stick his/her leg out. If the leg that emerged looked like that of a woman's, she was allowed to sleep, but if it looked like that of a man's, he was asked to get out of bed and report for duty.

So originally when someone asked you to "show a leg", all you had to do was to show him/her your leg! As time went on, this idiom which was mainly used in the navy, became a part of everyday speech as well.

Published in The Hindu on January 9, 2001

THE DAILY QUIZ

Here is another quiz to test your FIFA World Cup knowledge

N. Soorya Prakash

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

QUESTION 1
Which was the first World Cup to be held outside Europe and Americas and who hosted it?

QUESTION 2
Which World Cup final is called as the "Miracle of Bern" and why?

QUESTION 3
Who holds the record as the oldest to score a goal in World Cup history?

QUESTION 4
Who holds the record for scoring the most number of goals in a single edition of World Cup?

QUESTION 5
Prior to Golden Glove award, what was the name of the trophy given to the best goalkeeper of a World Cup tournament?

Visual question: Identify and connect the two players with their unique feat World Cup history? AFP

Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:

1. This U.S. President signed a declaration of war against Britain, initiating the War of 1812, which arose from U.S. grievances over oppressive maritime practices during the Napoleonic Wars? **Ans: James Madison**
2. Which English musician, born on this day, gained global fame with the Beatles? **Ans: Paul McCartney**
3. The SALT II treaty was signed by which two countries? **Ans: The U.S., Soviet Union**
4. On this day in 1940, which French General, broadcasting from London, after France fell to the Nazis, appealed to his compatriots to continue World War II under his leadership? **Ans: Charles de Gaulle**
5. Where did British explorer and mountaineer George Mallory, born on this day in 1886, disappear? **Ans: Mount Everest**
6. This American suffragist was fined after being convicted for voting in the 1872 presidential election, though she refused to pay it. **Ans: Susan B. Anthony**
7. Identify this person. She became the first American woman to fly into outer space in 1983. **Ans: Sally Ride**

Early Birds

Abhay Krishnan | Prithvi Chouhan |Yashica | Prem Nath Tiwari | Alisha Yadav

Word of the day

Cynosure:
something that provides guidance; something that strongly attracts attention and admiration

Synonyms: focus, spotlight

Usage: *Her dedication to charity work has become the cynosure of her entire career; Dressed in a stunning red gown, the bride became the cynosure of all eyes at the reception.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/cynosure

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈsɪn.ə.zjʊə/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Central Relief Committee
Social Welfare Department
Government of Karnataka

Dr. G. Parameshwara
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

Hearty Congratulations to the new
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka State
Shri D.K. Shivakumar

Hearty Congratulations to the new
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka State
Dr. G. Parameshwara

We wish that under your leadership, Karnataka marches further ahead on the path of development.

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'Disaster Relief & Rehabilitation'

'Beggar free Karnataka'

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Shri D. K. Shivakumar
and Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Dr. G. Parameshwara
are being felicitated by
Hon'ble Chairman of the
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Shri Aga Sultan.

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As enshrined in our Constitution - to safeguard public property and to abjure violence is the fundamental duty of every citizen of India.

Secretary
Central Relief Committee
Bengaluru

Secretary to Government
Social Welfare Department
Government of Karnataka

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
NOTIFICATION
Bengaluru, 3rd June 2026

S. O.2838 (E) – Whereas by the notification of the Central Government (Ministry of Railway, South Western Railway, Construction Organisation, Bengaluru Cantonment) S.O. 4936(E) dated 31.10.2025 published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section – 3, Sub-section (ii) issued under Section 2, Clause 20A of Railway Act, 1989 (24 of 1989) (herein referred to as the said act) the Ministry of Railway, South Western Railway, Construction Organisation, Bengaluru Cantonment declare its intention to acquire the land specified in the schedule annexed to the said notification for "Construction of 2 lane ROB in lieu of LC No.33 at km.59/800-900 at Pandithanahalli village" in the district of Tumakur, in the state of Karnataka.

And whereas the substance of the said notification has been published in Prajavani news paper dated 14.11.2025 and Deccan Herald news paper dated 14.11.2025 under Section 2, Clause 20A of Railway Act, 1989. And whereas the Competent Authority has received objections filed under section 2, clause 20D, considered and settled the same appropriately.

And whereas, in pursuance of Section 2, Clause 20E of Railway Act, 1989, the competent authority has submitted its report to the Ministry of Railway, South Western Railway, Construction Organisation, Bengaluru Cantonment.

Now, therefore, upon receipt of the said report of the competent authority and in exercise of the powers conferred by the Section 2, Clause 20E of Railway Act, 1989, the Ministry of Railway, South Western Railway, Construction Organisation, Bengaluru Cantonment hereby declares that the land specified in the said Schedule should be acquired for the aforesaid purpose;

And further, in pursuance of Section 2, Clause 20E of Railway Act, 1989, the Ministry of Railway, South Western Railway, Construction Organisation, Bengaluru Cantonment hereby declares that on publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, the land specified in the said Schedule shall vest absolutely in the Central Government, free from all encumbrances.

SCHEDULE

Brief description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling in the stretch of land in the district of Tumakur in the state of Karnataka.

State:Karnataka **District:Tumakur**
Taluk:Tumakur **Village: Pandithanahalli**

Sl No	Sy No/ Plot No	Type of land	Nature of land	Area in A-G	Name of the land owner/Interested person
1	50/3	N.A. K	N.A. K	0-05	B.G.Gangahanumegowda S/O Gangappa
2	53/3	Dry	Dry	0-02 1/2	Neelamma W/O Vithalaswamy, Boganarasimhaiah, S/O Late Narasahanumaiah, P.N. Girish S/O Narasahanumaiah (joint) Gowramma W/O Late Hanumanthaiah, Lakshmamma W/O Late Lakshmaiah (joint)
3	55/1	Dry	Dry	0-04 1/4	Narasamma and her sons and Daughters Narasimhaiah & Narasimhamurthy (Joint), Lakshmaiah S/O Anjini, Hanumanthaiah S/O Anjini, Gangamma S W/O Sathish, Siddaiah S/O Ramaiah,H Gangahanumaiah S/O Hanumanarasaiah, Chikkahanumaiah S/O Hanumaiah, L Narasahanumaiah S/O Lenkappa (Joint)
4	56	Dry	Dry	0-03 3/4	Narasimhamurthy D.P. S/O Late Doddaiah, Kulalavadi Inam, Puttahanumaiah, Danahanuma, Sanjeeva, Gangahanumaiah, Lenkahanuma, Gangamma W/O Huchhahanumma (Joint) Bhagya W/O Lakshmipathi P.H
5	57/6	N.A.K.	N.A.K.	0-00 1/2	M.N. Lakshmikanthaiah S/O Narasegowda
6	(1)50/3& (2)57/4	Road	Road	0-33	From National Highway 48 to North side Pandithanahalli Village road from Sy.No. 50/3 to Sy.No 57/4
Total				**1A-09G (0A-33G Govt road, 0A-16G private land)**	

No.W.271/CN/BNC/2026-27/Land SRP/1727

For details log on : https://egazette.gov.in

Sd/-
(Pardeep Puri)
PUB/230/AAS/PRB/SWR/2026-27 **Chief Engineer-III/Construction, Bengaluru Cantonment**

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South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
NOTIFICATION
Bengaluru, 2nd June 2026

S.O. 2801(E). In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 20 A of the Railway Act 1989 (24 of 1989) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act) the central Government after being satisfied that for the public purpose the land the brief description of which has been given in the schedule annexed hereto is required for the execution of the Special railway project in lieu of Level crossing No. 81 Construction of ROB between Karadi-Tiptur hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.

Any person interested in the said land may within Thirty days from the date of publication of this notification in the official Gazette raise objection to the acquisition and use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section(1) of Section 20D of the said Act.

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority and Special Land Acquisition Officer Tumakuru-Rayadurga and Tumakuru-Davanagere Railway project Tumakuru for ROB / RUB's in lieu of Level crossing No. 81 Construction of R.O.B. between Karadi-Tiptur in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the competent authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard either in person or by a legal practitioner and may after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry if any as the competent authority thinks necessary by order either allow or disallow the objections.

Any order made by the competent authority under sub-section (2) of Section 20 D of the said Act shall be final.

The land plans and other details of the land covered under this notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid Office of the Competent Authority and Special Land Acquisition Officer Tumakuru-Rayadurga and Tumakuru-Davanagere Railway project Tumakuru.

SCHEDULE

Brief description of the land to be acquired with or without structure falling within the proposed Special Railway Project of bridges in lieu of Level crossing No. 81 Construction of ROB between Karadi-Tiptur.

DISTRICT: TUMAKURU TALUK: TIPTUR HOBLI: KASABA VILLAGE: KOPPA

Sl. No.	Sy No	Beneficiary	Acquired Extent (In Acres-Guntas) Total (A-G)	A-Kharab (A-G)	B-Kharab (A-G)	Balance (A-G)	Classification of land
1	52/4	B.S. Basavaraju S/O Shivappa	0-36	-	-	0-36	Dry
2	52/5	T.S. Channegowda S/O Subagaiahgowda	0-00 1/2	-	-	0-00 1/2	Dry
3	52/6	T.S. Channegowda S/O Subagaiahgowda	0-03 1/2	-	-	0-03 1/2	Dry
4	52/7	Dil Shadibee D/O Mohammed Husheen Sab Shahataj Bee D/O Mohammed Husheen Sab	0-02	-	-	0-02	Dry
5	52/11	T.S. Channegowda S/O Subagaiahgowda	0-05 1/2	-	-	0-05 1/2	Dry
6	52/13	M Sowbhagya W/O T.S. Channegowda	0-02	-	-	0-02	Dry
7	53	T.S. Channegowda S/O Subagaiahgowda	0-04	-	-	0-04	Dry
8	57	Kempaiah S/O Channaiah M. Veeraraju S/O K.M. Munikrishnappa M. Veeraraju K.C. Gangadharaiah S/O Chandraiah Vasanthamma D/O Chandraiah Gurudat S/O Chandraiah Mamatha D/O Chandraiah Rangaiah S/O Dasanna Ramaiah S/O Lakkaiah Lakshmi W/O K.M. Ravindra Gangamma W/O Chandraiah K.C. Gangadharaiah S/O Chandraiah Vasantamma D/O Chandraiah Gurudatta S/O Chandraiah Mamatha D/O Chandraiah Gangamma W/O Chandraiah Gomala Lakshmi W/O K.M. Ravindra	0-37 1/2	-	-	0-37 1/2	Grant
Total			**2-11**	**-**	**-**	**2-11**	**-**

ABSTRACT			
Dry	**Grant**	**Kharab**	**Total**
1-13 1/2	0-37 1/2	-	2-11

No.W.271/CN/BNC/2026-27/Land SRP/1727

For details log on : https://egazette.gov.in

Sd/-
(Pardeep Puri)
PUB/229/AAS/PRB/SWR/2026-27 **Chief Engineer-III/Construction , Bengaluru Cantonment**

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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
NOTIFICATION
Bengaluru, 2nd June 2026

S.O. 2800(E) - In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 20(A) of the Railway Act-1989 (24 of 1989) (here in after referred to as the said Act), the Central Government after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which has been given in the schedule annexed hereto, is required for the execution of the Special Railway Project, in lieu of Level crossing No. 56 at (Benachigere Gate) for construction of ROB and Service Road in Benachigere and N.Mattighatta Villages in the state of KARNATAKA, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land:

Any person interested in the said land may, within Thirty days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, raise objection to the acquisition and use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section(1) of Section 20D of the said Act:

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority and Special Land Acquisition Officer, Tumakuru-Rayadurga, Tumakuru-Davanagere and Special Railway Project, Tumakuru. For ROB / RUB's in lieu of Level Crossing No. 56 at (Benachigere Gate) for construction of ROB and Service Road in Benachigere and N.Mattighatta Villages in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the competent authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the competent authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections:

Any order made by the competent authority under sub-section (2) of Section 20(D) of the said Act shall be final:

The land plans and other details of the land covered under this notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid Office of the Competent Authority and Special Land Acquisition Officer, Tumakuru-Rayadurga, Tumakuru-Davanagere and Special Railway Project, Tumakuru.

SCHEDULE

Brief description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure, falling with in the proposed Special Railway Project of bridges in lieu of Level crossing No. 56 at (Benachigere Gate) for construction of ROB and Service Road in Benachigere and N.Mattighatta Villages in the state of Karnataka.

DISTRICT: TUMAKURU,
TALUK: GUBBI,
HOBLI: NITTURU,
VILLAGE: N.MATTIGHATTA

Sl. No.	Sy No	RTC Holders Names	Acquired Extent (In Acres-Guntas) Total (A-G)	A-Kharab (A-G)	B-Kharab (A-G)	Balance (A-G)	Classification of land	Remark
1	57/6	N.B. Basavalingaiah S/O Basappa	0-02 1/2	-	-	0-02 1/2	Dry	-
Total			**0-02 1/2**	**-**	**-**	**0-02 1/2**	**-**	**-**

DISTRICT:TUMAKURU,
TALUK: GUBBI,
HOBLI: NITTURU,
VILLAGE: BENACHAGERE

Sl. No.	Sy No	RTC Holders Names	Acquired Extent (In Acres-Guntas) Total (A-G)	A-Kharab (A-G)	B-Kharab (A-G)	Balance (A-G)	Classification of land	Remark
1	54	B.S. Linganna S/O Shivanna S.	0-14 1/2	-	0-02	0-12 1/2	Dry	-
2	121	Rangaswamaiah S/O Chinnaiah, Shivanna S/O Chinnaiah, Chandraiah S/O Chinnaiah (Joint), Ranganarasamma W/O Gangaiah, Kaveri Niravari Nigamakke Bhuswadina, Chikkamma W/O Late Doddaiah, Narasimhaiah S/O Late Kenchaiah, Chikkanna S/O Late Kenchaiah, Bhadraiah S/O Late Kenchaiah (Joint) Lokamma W/O Late Kalaiah	0-03	-	0-00 1/2	0-02 1/2	Dry	-
3	40	Government Gomala Rangaswamaiah S/O Gangaiah Muniyamma W/O Rangaswamaiah (Joint) Bhardrakalamma W/O Chikkanna, Bhagyamma W/O Late Veerabhadraiah Ravish B S/O Late Veerabhadraiah Eranna B S/O Late Veerabhadraiah, (Joint) Chikkanna S/O Kenchaiah, Hanumanthaiah S/O Papanna, S Gangaiah S/O Siddaramaiah, Bhagyamma W/O Late Veerabhadraiah, Ravish B S/O Late Veerabhadraiah , Eranna B S/O Late Veerabhadraiah, (Joint) Kalaiah S/O Narasaiah, Boja S/O Renukaiah, Rangaswamaiah S/O Narasaiah, Rangaswamaiah S/O Chinnaiah, Kalamma W/O Channabasappa, Narasaiah S/O Rangaiah, Chikkanna Wife Deviramma, Veerabhadraiah S/O Kenchaiah Renukamma W/O Kempaiah (Joint), Gowramma W/O Late Nanjundaiah, B.N. Shivakumar S/O Late Nanjundappa, Sudha W/O B.N.Shivakumar Nijagunaiah S/O Late Nanjundaiah (Joint), Narasimhaiah S/O Mudalagiraiah, Doddaiah S/O Mudalagiraiah (Joint), Sujith S/O Nagaraju	0-08 3/4	-	0-01	0-07 3/4	Grant	As per Akarbhand Sy.No. 40 named as Sarkari Gomala, Khatadaras names has been mentioned as per present RTC.
4	41	Lakshmidevamma W/O Late Seebaiah, Veeranna S/O Late Seebaiah Doddaiah S/O Late Seebaiah (Joint)	0-01	-	-	0-01	Dry	-
5	42	Revaiah S/O Narasaiah	0-01 1/2	-	-	0-01 1/2	Dry	-
6	43	Government	0-02	-	-	0-02	Government	-
Total			**0-30 3/4**	**-**	**0-03 1/2**	**0-27 1/4**	**-**	**-**

ABSTRACT					
VILLAGE	**CLASSIFICATION OF LAND**	**ACQUIRED EXTENT (In ACRES-GUNTAS) TOTAL (A-G)**	**A KHARAB (A-G)**	**B KHARAB (A-G)**	**BALANCE (A-G)**
N.MATTIGHATTA	DRY	0-02 1/2	-	-	0-02 1/2
BENACHAGERE	GRANT	0-08 3/4	-	0-01	0-07 3/4
	GOVERNMENT	0-02	-	-	0-02
	DRY	0-20	-	0-02 1/2	0-17 1/2
TOTAL	**-**	**0-33 1/4**	**-**	**0-03 1/2**	**0-29 3/4**

No.W.271/CN/BNC/2026-27/Land SRP/1727

For details log on : https://egazette.gov.in

Sd/-
(Pardeep Puri)
PUB/227/AAS/PRB/SWR/2026-27 **Chief Engineer-III/Construction, Bengaluru Cantonment**

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Government of India
Ministry of Finance Department of Financial Services Debt Recovery Tribunal-I Karnataka (Bengaluru) 4th Floor, Telephone House, Raj Bhavan Road, Bengaluru

FORM NO.14
[See Regulation 33(2)]
By Regd. A/D, Dasti failing which by Publication

DEMAND NOTICE

NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961.

RC/313/2023
UNION BANK OF INDIA
Versus
SRI KRISHNAPPA

In the Matter of:
(CH-1) Union Bank Of India
(Erstwhile Corporation Bank)
Gudibande Branch, Opp. Police Station,
Gubibande Town-561 209.
Chikkaballapur District.
Applicant Bank/Certificate Holder
VERSUS

To,
(CD-1) Sri. Krishnappa
S/o. Late Chowdappa,
(CD-2) Sri.r.k. Narayanswamy
S/o.Sri. Krishnappa,
(CD-3) Smt.Manjula
D/o.Sri. Krishnappa,
(CD-4) Smt.Kushavathi
D/o. Sri. Krishnappa,
(CD-5) Smt.Geetha
D/o. Sri. Krishnappa,
Defendants No. 1 To 5 Residing At:
Hampasandra Village,
Hampasandra Post, Kasaba Hobli,
Gudibande Taluk, Chikkaballapura District.
(CD-6) Sri. H.P.Narasimha Reddy
S/o.Sri. Chikapapa Reddy,
Residing At: Halegudibande Village,
Gudibande Post, Chikkaballapura District.
Defendants/Certificate Debtors

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, **Debts Recovery Tribunal Bangalore (DRT 1) in OA/351/2020** an amount of **Rs 22,57,258/-** (Rupees Twenty Two Lakhs Fifty Seven Thousands Two Hundread Fifty Eight Only) out of which **i)**Defendants shall pay a sum of **Rs.20,43,971/-** along with cost, expenses and future interest **@12.65% p.a**.(including 2% penal interest) Compound Interest quarterly rests and **ii)** Defendants shall pay a sum of **Rs.21,32,87/-** along with cost, expreses and future interest **@ 12.40%** p.a.compound interest with quarterly rests in respect **w.e.f 13.02.2020** till realization and costs of **Rs. 53,510/-**(Rupees Fifty Three Thousands Five Hundred Ten Only) has become due against you (Jointly and Severally /Fully/Limited)

2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act,1993 and Rules there under.
3.Your are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing.
4. 'You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned within 15 days of the receipt of this notice '
5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay:
(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate / execution proceedings.
(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date:**13th March 2024**

Sanjeev Kumar
Recovery Officer-1

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No.
CN/01/2026-27 Dated: 15.06.2026
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

Tender No.	Item of Work
95265092	Hard Drawn Grooved Copper Contact Wire Jointless, 107 Sqmm Made Out Of Continuous Cast Copper Wire Rods. As Per RDSO Spec. No. ETI/OHE/ 76 (6/97) A & C Slip No.1,3,4,5,6,7,8, 9 & 10 Or Latest. **Qty**-14.56 MT.

Last date for Submission of bids : **on 13.07.2026**
For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**
Deputy Chief Material Manager Construction, Bengaluru Cantt.
PUB/221/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2026-27
Download the **RailOne** app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients **Mr. Polisetty Srinivasulu, Chittaluri Venu Deva Prasad, Solleti Satyanarayana All ARE** Residing at No. 4-2-170, G-1, LOTUS AVENUE, USMANSAHEB PET, Near Raghava Talent School. Stone House Peta, Nellore - 524002, intends to purchase schedule property from **Mr. Sachin Bhandari** Residing At Karki Village, Honnavara Taluk, Uttara Kannada District. Any person, claiming to have any charge, lien, interest minor, claims, right/s whatsoever over the schedule property may lodge their claim to the undersigned with documentary proof on or before 25/06/2026 failing which my clients will treat that there are no objections or claims in respect of the schedule property no claims shall be entertained thereafter.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the residential North western Building No.59 and 62 PG Building privately numbered as No.59/2, having ground, first, second, third, fourth, and fifth floor thereon consisting of total 50 squares building with shops at ground floor thereon, having BBMP Katha Sl.No. 3598, portion of BBMP BBMP katha No. 505, HK No. 93, old Site No. 62, old katha No's. 93 and 94,, Constructed on Sy.No. 131 and 132, situated at Munnekolala Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South : 40 feet and comes under GBA Limits, having GBA NEW E PID Katha No. 3390719601, with all rights, whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded as follows:-

East by : privately numbered as Site No. 59/1, WEST by : 30 feet road, North by 25 FEET ROAD, South by : Privately numbered as Site No.62/2.

From : **VEMURI.SRINIVAS** Advocate
MA,LLB ,KAR NO.514/99
Sri. Venkateswara Rao Nilaya
Bhagawanthi Associates
No.613, Kaveri Layout, Marathalli,
Bangalore-37. Mobile : 9243110037
Mail : VSRADVOCATE37@GMAIL.COM
Date : 18/06/2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General public are hereby notified and cautioned that, my client **Sri. K. MADHAVARAJU** S/o Sri. K. Kalasthiriraju R/at No.45, Nagendra Nilayam, 'C' 5th Cross, Devasandra Main Road, Vinayaka Nagar, K.R.Puram, Bengaluru-560036, Mobile-9035331439, is intended to enter in to sale agreement with one GANESH D.S. S/o Late. Deshkulkarni Nagabhushan Subbukrishnaiah R/at No. 76, HVV Plaza, 2nd floor, 15th Cross, 4th main, Himanshu School, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-560055 to purchase site No.9 and 16 in property No.374, BBMP Katha No.71/3, now EPID No.7683672440, situated at Devasandra Village, K.R.Pura Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, measuring East to West 33 feet and North to South 80 feet in all measuring 2640 Sq.feet, Schedule property **East by:** Road, **West by:** site No. 10&15, **North by:** Road and **South by:** Road, acting upon his title, ownership and possession, the said Ganesh.D.S came forward to execute sale agreement in favour of my client for sale consideration. Hence, I hereby notified the general public inviting to file their objections along with supporting documents if any to substantiate such claim/s to under signed Advocate within **10 days** from the date of this public notice. Failing which, my client will proceed to purchased above said property from The Ganesh.D.S and there after no claims will be entertained, holding that expect Ganesh.D.S no one have got any right, title, interest, possession and claims over the above mentioned property to deal with anybody in this regard.

V. SUNDARA MURTHY,
ADVOCATE & SOLICITOR
Off. No.1621/2, Near 10th BMTC Depot,
Hennur main Road, Kalyana Nagar Post,
Bengaluru- 560 043, Mob No.9845464925.
Date: 18.06.2026

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Construction Organization, Ernakulam Jn
TENDER NOTICE No. 08-CE-CN-ERS-2026-OT Dated 17.06.2026

Name of work: Balance works between CH: 236200m to 249150m between Neyyatinkara Yard(incl.) and Parssala Yard(excl.) section: - Proposed regrading of existing track in NYY Yard and miscellaneous works in connection with doubling of track between Thiruvananthapuram Central and Kanniyakumari.

Tender Value	Bid Security	Completion Period	Date and time of tender closing
₹ 4003.33 Lakhs	₹ 80,06,700/-	8 Months	**13/07/2026. 15.00 Hrs**

Complete details and tender document will be available at **https://www.ireps.gov.in**

Chief Engineer/Construction
Ernakulam Jn.

Government of India
Ministry of Finance
Department of Financial Services
Debt Recovery Tribunal-I, Karnataka
4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bengaluru-560001

FORM NO. 14 [See Regulation 33(2)]By Regd. A/D, Dasti failing which by Publication.

DEMAND NOTICE

(NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961.)

RC/356/2024 **13-12-2024**

BANK OF BARODA versus M/s SRI SHRI GANESH TRADERS

In the Matter of: (CH-1) BANK OF BARODA, Zonal Stressed Assets Recovery Branch, 2nd Floor, Vijaya Towers, 41/2, M.G. Road, Trinity Circle, Bengaluru, Karnataka -560001. **...Applicant Bank/Certificate Holder**

VERSUS

To,
(CD-1) M/s.Shri Ganesh Traders, A proprietary concern of **Sri.Govind V. Jathar** Having address at: No B-91, 2nd Cross, Near SBI, 1st Phase, Peenya Industrial Estate, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560058. **(CD-2) Mr.Govind V Jathar S/o. Late Vibhakar Jathar,** Prop of: M/s. Ganesh Traders R/at: Vibhakar Property, No.30, BBMP Katha No 215/216/30 Sy No 112 and 113 Singapura, Singapura Paradise Layout, Vidyaranyapura Post, Bengaluru-560097. Also at: No. 56 DED College Road, M.S.Palya, Aditya Nagar, Bengaluru-560097. **(CD-3) Mr. Santhosh S.Anwatti S/o. Late Subhachandra,** R/at: No.824, 5th 'A' Main Road, MES Road, Muthyalanagar, Bengaluru-560052.

...Defendants/Cetificate Debtors

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL BENGALURU (DRT-1) in OA/765/2020 an amount of **2,43,33,500.97** (Rupees Two Crore Forty Three Lakhs Thirty Three Thousands Five Hundred and Paisa Ninety Seven Only) along with and future interest @15.5% per annum Simple Interest w.e.f. **29/06/2020** till realization and costs of **Rs. 2,20,405.00** (Rupees Two Lakh Twenty Thousands Four Hundred Five Only) has become due against you jointly and severally.

2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act 1993.
3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing.
4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on **05/02/2025 at 10:30 a.m.** for further proceedings.
5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay
(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate/execution proceedings.
(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date: **13/12/2024.**
You are directed that the payment made if any by the Certificate Debtor(s) be credited to the consolidated account of all debts due in this case from the Certificate Debtor(s) and the Recovery Officer kept posted with the Payment position regularly.
The consolidated account so maintained will be subject to the Verification of the Recovery officer . You are further directed to submit an up to date statement of the total claim in respect of the above matter and full details of property particulars where from the recovery of the debt is to be made.

Sd/- (P.H HEMANTH KUMAR, IRS) Recovery Officer-II

WORLD CONTINENCE WEEK

15TH – 21ST JUNE '26

WORLD CONTINENCE WEEK 2026
Do not suffer in silence. Seek support. Regain control

A Space Marketing Initiative
MSN
Research for Better Medicines

Urinary Health in Plain Sight

Dr. Abhay Kumar G
Urologist

Urinary health is often hidden in plain sight. Symptoms such as urgency, leakage, nocturia, and increased frequency are common, yet many individuals live with them for months or even years before seeking medical advice. Some assume the symptoms are simply part of ageing, childbirth, or everyday life, while others feel embarrassed to discuss concerns that they consider private or uncomfortable.

This hesitation can delay diagnosis and treatment, even when effective management options are available. In reality, urinary symptoms may arise from a wide range of causes, including overactive bladder, pelvic floor dysfunction, urinary tract conditions, medication effects, chronic disease, or lifestyle-related factors. Understanding the underlying cause is often the first step toward meaningful improvement.

Open discussion plays an important role in changing perceptions. The more frequently urinary health is addressed in routine healthcare conversations, the more likely patients are to recognize that evaluation is worthwhile and that treatment can make a difference. Clear communication helps replace uncertainty and embarrassment with understanding and action.

A senior-clinician perspective is particularly valuable because it allows important messages to be delivered without sensationalism. The facts are straightforward: urinary symptoms are common, causes are varied, and many conditions are manageable. There is no need for dramatic language to emphasize their importance.

Urinary health matters because it influences comfort, confidence, sleep, mobility, and quality of life. Plain language, used thoughtfully, can remove stigma, encourage conversation, and make seeking help feel both reasonable and accessible. Sometimes the simplest message is the most effective one.

The Unseen Burden of Urinary Leakage

Dr. Bivek Kumar
Urologist

Urinary leakage carries an unseen burden that is often underestimated by family members, friends, and even healthcare professionals. While the physical symptom may appear straightforward, its emotional and social impact can be profound. Many patients quietly adapt their lives to avoid embarrassment, concealing pads, choosing specific clothing, restricting fluid intake, or carefully planning activities around access to toilets.

Over time, these adjustments can reduce spontaneity, confidence, and independence. Simple activities such as travelling, attending social events, participating in exercise, or spending time away from home may become sources of anxiety. The burden is not limited to social concerns alone. Urinary leakage can also affect sleep quality, skin health, mobility, and emotional well-being, contributing to frustration, isolation, and reduced quality of life.

An important clinical lesson is that symptom severity and patient distress are not always proportional. A relatively small volume of leakage may feel overwhelming to someone who highly values privacy, control, and discretion. Conversely, another individual may tolerate more severe symptoms with less emotional impact. This highlights the importance of understanding the patient's personal experience rather than focusing solely on objective measures.

Respectful questioning, empathetic communication, and clear explanations of available treatment options are essential components of care. Awareness initiatives should emphasize that urinary leakage is a legitimate health concern and that effective management strategies often exist. When the unseen burden is acknowledged and addressed, treatment becomes more compassionate, patient-centered, and ultimately more successful in restoring comfort, confidence, and daily function.

What the Bladder Is Trying to Tell Us

Bladder symptoms are often best understood as messages rather than mysteries. Increased frequency, urgency, leakage, or waking at night to urinate are not diagnoses in themselves but signals that something within the urinary system or elsewhere in the body may require attention. Learning to interpret these messages correctly is an important part of effective clinical care.

Different symptoms often point toward different possibilities. Frequency may suggest bladder irritation, excessive fluid intake, infection, or metabolic conditions such as diabetes. Urgency can indicate overactive bladder or neurological influences. Leakage may reflect pelvic floor weakness, impaired bladder control, or poor coordination between muscles and nerves. Nocturia may be associated with fluid redistribution, sleep disorders, cardiovascular conditions, or age-related physiological changes.

Dr. Dhanashekar N
Urologist

Interpreting these symptoms requires curiosity rather than assumption. This is especially important in older adults, where urinary complaints are sometimes dismissed as an inevitable consequence of ageing. A more useful approach is to explore what changed, when symptoms began, how they have evolved, and what factors make them better or worse. Such questions often reveal patterns that guide diagnosis and treatment.

The bladder is a remarkably honest messenger. It frequently provides early clues about underlying health concerns before more obvious complications emerge. When clinicians and patients take time to listen carefully, many urinary symptoms can be understood, investigated, and effectively managed. Awareness begins with recognizing that bladder symptoms are meaningful communications, and better outcomes often begin with reading the message correctly.

Issued in public interest by
MSN
Research for Better Medicines

No More Leaks
#Breakthesilence

The Daily Disruption We Rarely Discuss

Dr. Manjunath V
Urologist

Urinary symptoms can create a daily disruption that is rarely discussed openly, despite affecting millions of people. While clinical conversations often focus on diagnosis and treatment, the true burden of urinary problems is frequently measured in the countless adjustments individuals make throughout their day. These adaptations may seem small in isolation but can become exhausting when repeated continuously.

Many people spend considerable time planning bathroom access, carrying protective supplies, restricting fluids at inappropriate times, or avoiding situations where toilet facilities may be difficult to reach. Some limit travel, decline social invitations, or reduce physical activity because of concerns about urgency or leakage. Over time, these coping strategies can significantly affect confidence, independence, and quality of life.

From a clinical perspective, continence issues influence far more than anatomy. They affect work productivity, sleep quality, emotional well-being, social participation, and mental focus. Patients often devote substantial energy to managing symptoms, leaving less energy for the activities they value most.

Awareness initiatives are valuable because they highlight the hidden cost of silence. When individuals see their experiences reflected accurately and respectfully, they may feel more comfortable discussing concerns and seeking help. Many urinary symptoms can be improved through evaluation, education, behavioural strategies, pelvic floor rehabilitation, medication, or treatment of underlying conditions.

Daily disruption is often the most honest measure of symptom burden. Understanding how symptoms affect routine life provides insight that cannot be captured by clinical measurements alone. For healthcare professionals, recognizing this broader impact is essential to delivering care that truly addresses patients' needs and goals.

Continence and Confidence: The Link We Ignore

Dr. Mohammed Shahid Ali
Urologist

Continence and confidence are closely connected, yet this relationship is often overlooked in both clinical practice and public discussion. When individuals begin to fear urinary leakage, the impact frequently extends beyond the bladder itself. Many reduce physical activity, avoid social gatherings, hesitate to travel, or become reluctant to participate in activities they once enjoyed. Over time, these behavioural changes can significantly affect independence, self-esteem, and overall quality of life.

The loss of confidence associated with urinary symptoms may persist even when the physical symptoms are relatively mild. Some patients develop a constant awareness of restroom locations, while others avoid situations where immediate access to a toilet may not be guaranteed. This gradual restriction of daily activities can create a burden that is often greater than the symptom itself.

From a clinical perspective, restoring continence is only one part of successful management. Equally important is restoring freedom, confidence, and the ability to engage fully in everyday life. Patients should be reassured that improvement is often achievable through practical measures such as pelvic floor muscle training, bladder retraining, fluid management, weight reduction, medication review, or treatment of underlying medical conditions.

Senior clinicians frequently observe that confidence returns gradually as symptoms improve and patients gain reassurance that their condition is manageable. This emotional recovery can be just as meaningful as the physical improvement. A conversation about continence is therefore also a conversation about confidence, independence, and quality of life. Addressing both dimensions helps ensure truly patient-centered care and more satisfying long-term outcomes.

From Embarrassment to Empowerment

Dr. Vinay Patil
Urologist

The most effective continence awareness efforts help individuals move from embarrassment to empowerment. Embarrassment often keeps urinary symptoms hidden, preventing people from seeking advice or exploring treatment options. Empowerment, by contrast, encourages understanding, action, and confidence. This transformation is one of the most important goals of patient education and awareness initiatives.

The journey toward empowerment frequently begins with validation. Patients need to hear that urinary symptoms are common, medically relevant, and often treatable. Many people feel isolated in their experience, believing they are alone or that nothing can be done. Reassurance based on accurate information can help replace fear and uncertainty with a more constructive outlook.

Education is the next step. Understanding symptom patterns, potential causes, lifestyle influences, and available treatments allows patients to participate actively in their own care. Whether symptoms involve urgency, frequency, nocturia, or leakage, clear explanations help individuals make informed decisions and set realistic expectations.

Empowerment also requires practical guidance rather than vague reassurance. Pelvic floor muscle training, bladder retraining, fluid management, medication review, behavioural strategies, and treatment of underlying conditions can all contribute to improvement when appropriately recommended. Patients are more likely to engage with these measures when they understand their purpose and potential benefits.

Senior clinicians play an important role in normalizing conversations about urinary health while maintaining professionalism and respect. When shame is replaced with knowledge and support, many patients discover that their symptoms are far more manageable than they feared. That shift from embarrassment to empowerment is the true value of awareness and patient-centered care.

Why the Bladder Deserves Attention

Dr. Vishal Shet
Urologist

The bladder is a relatively small organ, yet it has an extraordinary influence on daily life. When functioning normally, it receives little attention. However, when symptoms develop, the bladder can quickly become a constant source of concern, affecting sleep, work, travel, exercise, and social interactions. Its impact often extends far beyond the physical act of urination.

Symptoms such as urgency, leakage, nocturia, and increased frequency may appear straightforward on the surface, but they frequently reflect a complex interaction of bladder function, pelvic floor support, neurological control, lifestyle habits, medications, and coexisting medical conditions. Understanding this complexity is essential for effective evaluation and treatment.

Senior clinicians recognize that bladder symptoms deserve attention because they may signal underlying conditions that are both identifiable and treatable. Urinary tract infections, overactive bladder, pelvic floor dysfunction, diabetes, neurological disorders, and medication-related effects can all contribute to symptoms. Early recognition often leads to more effective management and better long-term outcomes.

Unfortunately, many patients do not mention urinary concerns unless specifically asked. Embarrassment, misconceptions about ageing, or the belief that symptoms are unavoidable frequently prevent open discussion. Routine enquiry during consultations can therefore uncover issues that might otherwise remain hidden.

The goal is not to medicalize every urinary symptom but to identify those that affect health, function, and quality of life. A bladder that receives appropriate attention often allows individuals to regain confidence, sleep better, remain active, and return their focus to the more important business of living well.

Listening Beyond the Obvious: Continence Care

Dr Sanjay P
Urologist

Good continence care begins with listening carefully to what the patient does not immediately say. Many individuals seek medical advice for urinary frequency, sleep disruption, pelvic discomfort, or recurrent bathroom visits long before they openly discuss leakage. Others may normalize their symptoms, believing they are simply part of ageing or that effective treatments do not exist. As a result, important clinical information can remain hidden unless explored through thoughtful and respectful conversation.

A detailed history often provides valuable clues that guide diagnosis and management. Gentle questioning about bladder habits, fluid intake, bowel function, mobility, medications, and daily activities can reveal patterns that might otherwise be missed. Patients frequently feel relieved when clinicians raise the topic sensitively, helping to reduce embarrassment and encourage honest discussion.

This approach is particularly important in busy healthcare settings, where attention may naturally focus on the most obvious complaint. Continence issues rarely exist in isolation. They often coexist with constipation, mobility limitations, medication side effects, obesity, diabetes, neurological disorders, or other chronic health conditions. Understanding these connections is essential for developing effective treatment plans.

Successful continence care therefore requires a broader perspective than the bladder alone. Lifestyle modifications, pelvic floor rehabilitation, medication review, and management of associated conditions may all contribute to improvement.

When clinicians listen beyond the obvious, they often discover that the most effective intervention is not necessarily complex or expensive, but simply accurate and well directed. Careful listening, clear communication, and individualized management can significantly improve symptoms, restore confidence, and enhance quality of life.

This is a patient awareness initiative by MSN labs. The views and opinions expressed here are based on the expertise of the doctors and is not endorsed by MSN labs. Reader's are advised to seek to necessary medical advice from a qualified medical practitioner.

Patchy rainfall across Karnataka; 35% deficit in southwest monsoon

The India Meteorological Department says that the average rainfall for the State during the southwest monsoon season is most likely to be below normal

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Twelve districts [Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, Bengaluru South, Kolar, Mandya, Chitradurga, Koppal, Gadag, Dharwad, Belagavi, Vijayapura and Yadgir] have received normal rainfall. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Though the southwest monsoon arrived in Karnataka on June 4, the State has recorded an actual rainfall of 71 mm as against the normal of 109 mm for the period between June 1 and 18.

According to the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre's (KSNDMC) June rainfall pattern, there has been a departure of -35%.

Data for June 2026 so far shows that south interior Karnataka has received 44 mm as against the normal 48 mm, a departure of -6%, while north interior Karnataka has received 53 mm against 63 mm, a departure of -16%. Malnad and the coastal regions have recorded 89 mm and 191 mm, respectively, as against the normal 178 mm and 419 mm, reflecting departures of -50% and -54%.

Large excess to deficit

KSNDMC data further states that five districts of Bagalkot, Raichur, Ballari, Chickballapur and Tumakuru received large excess rainfall. Twelve districts – Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, Bengaluru South, Kolar, Mandya, Chitradurga, Koppal, Gadag, Dharwad, Belagavi, Vijayapura and Yadgir – received normal rainfall.

Meanwhile, deficit rainfall was recorded in Kalaburgi, Uttara Kannada, Haveri, Vijayanagar, Davangere, Udupi, Chikkamagaluru, Dakshina Kannada, Hassan, Kodagu, Mysuru and Chamarajanagar districts, while Shivamogga and Bidar received large deficit rainfall.

During this period, 17 taluks received large excess rainfall, while 24 and 66 taluks recorded excess and normal rainfall, respectively.

The data stated that 103 taluks received deficit rainfall, and 30 recorded large deficit rainfall.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has already said that the average rainfall for Karnataka during the southwest monsoon season (June to September) is most likely to be below normal.

According to the probability forecast for seasonal rainfall over Karnataka during the season, coastal Karnataka and south interior Karnataka are expected to receive below-normal rainfall, while north interior Karnataka is likely to receive below- to near-normal rainfall.

Intensify after June 21

IMD scientist C.S. Patil said the intensity of the monsoon would remain weak for the next two to three days, and is expected to "become intense" by June 21-22.

"There is a probability of 75% rainfall in coastal Karnataka, 50% and 25% in south and north interior Karnataka early next week," he said.

Bengaluru city, which has for the past couple of days been witnessing a rise in maximum temperature (around 30 to 31 degrees Celsius) witnessed cloudy conditions on Thursday, while the maximum temperature dropped to 26.4 degrees Celsius.

The forecast for the next two days indicates a generally cloudy sky, with light to moderate rain likely and gusty winds (30 to 40 kmph) expected at one or two places.

The maximum and minimum temperature is very likely to be around 29 degrees Celsius and 22 degrees Celsius respectively.

Study finds pesticide residues in breast cancer tissues, raises concerns over exposure risks

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Raising concerns about the long-term impact of agricultural chemicals on human health, a recent study by researchers from Bengaluru has detected pesticide residues in breast cancer tissues.

The findings point to a possible link between environmental exposure and cancer risk, while also highlighting gaps in awareness and safety practices at the grassroots level. However, the study also says that it is unlikely to be the sole cause of breast cancer.

The findings emerge from a study conducted by researchers at Healthcare Global Enterprises (HCG), Bengaluru, and published in the Journal of Clinical Oncology. The study examined breast cancer tissue samples and found traces of several pesticides commonly used in Indian agriculture, prompting calls for stronger monitoring, farmer education and stricter regulation of pesticide use.

The research team analysed 30 breast cancer tissue samples using high-resolution mass spectrometry and detected 49 different pesticide residues. The study found that pesticide concentrations were generally higher in the fatty tissue surrounding tumours than within the tumours themselves.

According to the researchers, this pattern is consistent with the nature of many pesticides, particularly organophosphorus compounds, which tend to accumulate in fatty tissues. These chemicals are also known to act as hormone disruptors and may contribute to chronic inflammation, both of which have been associated with cancer development.

The findings emerge from a study conducted by researchers at Healthcare Global Enterprises, Bengaluru. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Lifestyle factors

Krithikaa Sekar, Consultant Radiation Oncologist at HCG and lead author of the study, said breast cancer is increasingly linked to a combination of hormonal, lifestyle and environmental factors.

"Obesity is one of the leading causes of hormonal imbalance because fat cells produce excess oestrogen. This is one reason breast cancer is the most common cancer among women in many Western countries. India is also beginning to see similar trends as sedentary lifestyles and higher body mass index become more common," she told The Hindu.

Dr. Sekar said the study points to pesticide exposure as a potentially important but less-discussed risk factor.

"Certain pesticides, particularly organophosphorus compounds, can mimic hormones. Many also act as irritants and tend to accumulate in fatty tissues. Repeated exposure to such chemicals can contribute to cancer formation. Since the breast contains a significant amount of fatty tissue, these compounds have a greater tendency to accumulate there," she said.

Traces of 47 pesticides

As part of the study, researchers examined fat tissue surrounding breast tumours for nearly 100 pesticides commonly used in India and detected traces of 47 of them.

"Of these, three are already recognised as having carcinogenic potential. The remaining 44 have not been adequately studied for their cancer-causing effects. Their long-term health impact remains largely unknown," Dr. Sekar said. To understand possible sources of exposure, the team also interviewed 50 farmers about pesticide-use practices. The interactions revealed limited awareness about health risks associated with pesticide exposure.

"Many farmers told us that decisions on pesticide use are often guided by local practices or advice from shopkeepers rather than scientific recommendations. Excessive quantities are frequently used, and crops are sometimes harvested before the recommended waiting period that allows pesticide residues to break down," she said.

Safeguards absent

The researchers noted a stark contrast between produce grown for export and that intended for domestic consumption.

"For export-oriented agriculture, soil testing, regulated pesticide application, mandatory waiting periods and residue testing are routine. Such safeguards are often absent in produce meant for local markets," Dr. Sekar said.

She also pointed out that some pesticides still permitted in India have been banned in several other countries, while permissible residue limits abroad are often far lower.

"Consumers have a right to know the pesticide residue levels in the food they consume. More systematic residue monitoring and stronger enforcement of safety standards could make a significant difference," she said.

While stressing that breast cancer is a multifactorial disease influenced by genetic, hormonal and lifestyle factors, Dr. Sekar said the findings suggest that environmental exposure to pesticides may be an important contributor.

Proposal to appoint mental health workers for State police

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In an effort to enhance police performance and improve the welfare of personnel, a proposal has been submitted to the Karnataka Police Department seeking the appointment of professional psychiatric social workers across police units to address the growing mental health needs of police personnel.

In a communication addressed to the State police leadership, Mohan Kumar Danappa, Member of the Karnataka State Police Complaints Authority, highlighted the need for dedicated mental health services within the police force.

The letter noted that while the department has been giving considerable attention to the physical health of personnel, there remains a shortage of qualified professional resources to provide psychological and mental health support.

The recommendation calls for the deployment of such professionals in all district police offices, commissionerates, armed police units, police training institutions, and other police establishments across Karnataka.

The proposal is also understood to have received support through a representation submitted by the State Committee of the Police Welfare Association in Bengaluru.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. CGM(Tech)/DGM(PROC &APCC)/EE(PROC)-3/AEE7/2026-27/1720-737/1738-754/1755-769 Date:18.06.2026

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPPP mode only)

KPTCL invites Bids on electronic mode for the following works against following Enquiry Numbers: on **Total Turnkey basis** including supply of all matching materials/equipment, mandatory spares and erection (including civil works) of all materials /equipment, testing and commissioning, De-commissioning of materials/ equipments

Enquiry No's. and Name of the works

(1) KPTCL/2026-27/TL/WORK_INDENT3844

Combined package of: Work-A: Re-conductoring of existing **110kV Raichur-Shahpur** DC line From existing **220/110/33/11KV** R/S at Raichur to Existing **220/110/33/11kV** R/S Shahapur by providing intermediate towers for a distance of **72.515 kms** in Raichur District.
Work-B: Re-construction of 110 KV Shahabad – B.Bagewadi DC Line, using DC Towers and Lynx Conductor for a distance of **59.885 kms** in the existing corridor from 220Kv Shahabad S/s to 110Kv Moratagi S/s in Kalaburagi District.
Work-C: Re-Construction of existing **110kV Humnabad-Gulbarga-I SC line** on SC tower by constructing 110kV DC new line on DC towers from 220/110kV Kapnoor sub-station to 220/110/11 kV Humnabad sub-station LILO at 110/33/11kV Mahagaon sub-station using existing corridor for a distance of **50.819 kms** along with construction of terminal bays in Kalaburagi Taluk and District. Last date & time for receipt of Bids is **10.07.2026 at 15.00 Hrs.**

(2) KPTCL/2026-27/TL/WORK_INDENT3889

Combined package of: **Work-A: (i)** Replacement of existing 1st circuit Coyote ACSR conductor by HTLS (Equivalent to Drake ACSR) and stringing of 2nd circuit with HTLS conductor on existing DC towers of 66kV Anekal-Attibele line from 66/11KV Anekal sub-station to 66/11kV Attibele sub-station for a distance of **6.545 kms.**
(ii) Strengthening of existing 66kV Yarandanahalli-Anekal 1&2 lines by replacing Coyote conductor with HTLS conductor from the existing 220/66kV Yarandanahalli sub-station to 66/11KV Anekal sub-station (Equivalent to Drake ACSR) for a distance of **9.168 Kms.**
(iii) Construction of 66kV terminal bay at existing 66/11kV Anekal sub-station for terminating 2nd circuit line using 66kV HTLS conductor from 66/11kV Attibele sub-station.
(iv) Construction of one No. of terminal bay at existing 66/11kV Attibele sub-station for terminating 2nd circuit line using 66kV HTLS conductor from 66/11kV Anekal sub-station.
Work-B (i) Strengthening of existing 66KV Ekarajapura-Pillagumpa line by replacing the existing DC coyote line from 220/66KV Ekarajapura sub-station T.No18 in the existing MC corridor of DG-3,DG-4, Volvo-Nandagudi & Pillagumpa line on MC towers and DC Coyote line from tower no 19 to 66/11KV Pillagumpa sub-station by HTLS conductor (equivalent to current carrying capacity of Drake conductor) for a route distance of **4.506 Kms** (3.480km on MC Towers & 1.026 km on DC Towers)
(ii) Replacement of existing 66kV CTs by new capacity CTs at 220/66kV Ekarajapura and 66/11kV Pillagumpa sub-stations for strengthening of 66kV Ekarajapura-Pillagumpa Line with Coyote ACSR conductor by HTLS conductor (equivalent to current carrying capacity of Drake conductor).
Dismantling of Existing Coyote conductor & accessories Related to works of A & B.
Last date & time for receipt of Bids is **10.07.2026 at 15.00 Hrs**.

(3) KPTCL/2026-27/UC/WORK_INDENT3837

Shifting and Re-routing of Existing 110kV DC Ilkal- Kustagi 1 & 2 and 110kV Multi Circuit line Ilkal- Hunagund 1 & 2 lines along with Solar line passing over the playground of Govt Pre-University College Ilkal Under Hazardous locations coming under the Operation Division Bagalakote.

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **"E Procurement KPTCL"** or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 19.06.2026. . Any extension of Due date for Bid submission will be intimated in the KPP Portal.** Any details required in this regard can also be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

All Corrigendum/Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the Bids.

Sd/- Chief General Manager (Tech), Corporate Office, KPTCL, 11th Floor, Indhana Bhavan, Bengaluru-560009

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT

Revenue Department, M. S. Building, Bengaluru

NO: E-RD 39 GRC 2026 **Date:12.06.2026**

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, upon considering the report of the Deputy Commissioner, Belagavi District and after due investigation of the complaints of depositors it has come to the notice of the Government, that Shivam Associates, Belagavi City, is involved in fraudulent transactions by clandestinely and illegally collecting deposits or money from the general public and thereafter have failed to return the same either after maturity or on demand made by the depositors or complainants with promised interest and other assured benefits and thereby have failed to render the services promised to them.

And whereas, it has further come to the notice of the Government that Shivam Associates, Belagavi City and people associating with them have been acquiring lands, movable and immovable properties, cash and others from and out of the deposits or money so collected, from the depositors or complainants and thereby deviating from the intended purposes of accepting the deposits or money.

And whereas, the Government has reason to believe that the actions of Shivam Associates, Belagavi City and people associating with them are acting in and detrimental to the interest of the depositors or complainants whose intention was to defraud the innocent depositors, and it has become necessary to protect the interest of the depositors of the Shivam Associates, Belagavi City.

And whereas, now the Government after considering the reports of the Special Officer and Competent Authority IMA and other KPID Cases and Competent Authority for Shivam Associates, Belagavi City and satisfying itself about the urgent need to protect the interest of the depositors and in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section (3) of the Karnataka Protection of interest of Depositors in Financial Establishment Act, 2004 (Karnataka Act 30 of 2005) hereby makes the following order, namely:

"ORDER"

Now therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section (3) of the Karnataka Protection of interest of Depositors in Financial Establishment Act, 2004 (Karnataka Act 30 of 2005), the Government under the circumstances stated above having satisfied that in order to protect the interest of depositors it is necessary to attach the movable and immovable properties believed to belong to Shivam Associates, Belagavi City.

Therefore, the Government hereby attaches the movable properties as specified in the Annexure to this order believed to have been acquired by the Shivam Associates, Belagavi City ,either in its own name or in the name of any other person from and out of the deposits collected by the Shivam Associates, Belagavi City and where it transpires that such money or such other properties of the said financial establishment, or the personal assets of the promoters, partners, directors, managers or members or any other person of the said financial establishment is not sufficient for the repayment of the deposits or interest or such other assured benefits to the depositors.

Note: All the aforesaid movable properties from the date of publication of this order in the Official Gazette, shall forth with vest with the Competent Authority, who has been appointed by the Government, pending further orders from the Special Court.

By Order and in the name of the Governor of Karnataka
Sd/-
(Anwar Basha)
Deputy Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department (Services-1, SSLR & Special Cell)

ANNEXURE

Sl. No	Registration number	Vehicle Maker	Vehicle model	Type of Vehicle	Date of registration	Name of the owner	Chassis Number	Engine Number
1	KA 22 MF 9404	Jaguar Land Rover India Limited	DEFENDER 3 0 D X Dyn Hse	7 Seater	05-08-2025	Shivanand Siddappa Neelannavar	SALEA7AW9S2454424	250417Z1101DT306
2	KA 22 MD 9404	Mercedes-Benz India Pvt. Ltd.	Mercedes Amg Glc 43 4m Coupe	5 Seater	21-02-2023	Shivanand Siddappa Neelannavar	W1N0J6EB1PL050580	27682331160746
3	KA 22 MA 9404	Hyundai Motor India Ltd	VERNA 1.6 CRDI SX (O)	5 Seater	07-06-2018	Shivanand S Neelannavar	MALC841DLJM051673B	D4FBJM521314
4	KA 22 ME 9404	Honda Cars India Ltd	Honda City ZxE cvt R E Hev	5 Seater	23-08-2024	Sangeetha Shivanand Neelannavar	MAKGN367FR4300305	LEBA1400303
5	KA 22 MB 9404	TOYOTA KIRLOSKAR MOTOR PVT LTD	FORTUNER SIGMA 4	7 Seater	29-11-2019	Shivanand Siddappa Neelannavar	MBJBA3FS000819891	1GDA327036
6	KA 22 MG 9404	TOYOTA KIRLOSKAR MOTOR PVT LTD	VELLFIRE VIP	7 Seater	Un-Registered	Shivanand Siddappa Neelannavar	JTNADAAH008015324	A25B6409353

Sd/-
(Anwar Basha)
Deputy Secretary to Government
Revenue Department (Services-1, SSLR & Special Cell)

DIPR/CP/JA/1239/2026-27

Lecturers, students suffer as PU colleges face delay in receiving textbooks

Under the scheme, textbooks, shoes, socks and uniform are given for free for class 1 to 10 students. This year, the scheme has been extended to provide free textbooks to I and II PU students

Rashmi Patil
BENGALURU

The scheme is expected to benefit 15 lakh students in government and aided PU colleges. FILE PHOTO

Many Pre-University colleges have complained about delay in receiving free textbooks promised by the State government for this academic year.

In the recent State Budget 2026-27, former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced to provide free textbooks for I and II PU students under the Vidya Vikas Scheme. Under the scheme, textbooks, shoes, socks and uniform are given for free for class 1 to 10 students. This year, the scheme has been extended to provide free textbooks to I and II PU students.

The scheme is expected to benefit 15 lakh students in government and aided PU colleges.

However, it has been around 20 days since classes have begun and lecturers complained that they are yet to receive textbooks for all the subjects.

A girl student from a PU college in Basavanagudi said, "My mother is a domestic worker and father works in automobile garage. I have opted for Science. With textbooks being delayed, it has become a challenge for me to study. Currently, I am relying on the written notes provided by lecturers. The textbook prices are expensive and we cannot afford to pay."

A.H. Ningegowda, president, Karnataka State PU Lecturers' Association, said, "Most of the students who get enrolled in our colleges are from lower-middle class or their parents work as daily wage labourers . They cannot afford to purchase textbooks. After demanding the government to provide free textbooks for a long time, they finally promised to give textbooks for this academic year. However, there is no communication about when we will receive textbooks."

He added, "The department has failed to cover even 25% of colleges to provide textbooks at the start of the academic year."

Another lecturer from a college in Chickballapur said, "Other subject teachers like Accounts, Statistics, History, Economics, Physics, etc. have started providing notes to students without textbooks. But it is difficult to manage without textbooks when we teach languages. We need to read lessons to the students, and it can be done when they have textbooks in front of them."

Speaking to *The Hindu*, a senior official from the Directorate of Pre-University Education, said "The textbooks have been delayed due to administrative reasons. Since this was the first time for us to provide free textbooks to PU students, it has been slightly delayed. A total indent of 28 lakh textbooks has been placed with the Karnataka Textbook Society (KTB) for books to be provided under the scheme. If more students are enrolled, then we will have extra copies left with us and there will be no shortage. Nearly three to four lakh textbooks have reached the colleges across the State. We are working on this on priority."

Meanwhile, an official from the KTB said, "We have a stock of textbooks printed last year left with us, but we need to see if there are any revisions made to the syllabus. The first phase of tender was completed and textbooks were printed. We will supply them to colleges soon."

Students face technical glitches while applying for free bus passes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As the Karnataka government began issuing free bus passes to students under its newly announced free travel scheme, a few students across the State have reported difficulties in completing their applications due to technical issues on the Seva Sindhu portal.

After assuming office on June 3, Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar announced a free bus travel scheme for students studying across Karnataka. The initiative is aimed at reducing transportation costs for students and expanding access to education. Subsequently, on June 12, the State Transport Department issued detailed guidelines for the distribution of free bus passes.

However, the online application process has been marred by technical glitches, with students complaining that the Seva Sindhu portal has not been functioning properly for the past few days.

Many applicants have reported that they are unable to complete the registration process as the portal is failing to send One-Time Passwords (OTPs) to their registered mobile numbers.

Vignesh A.S., a student from Koppal district, said he had repeatedly attempted to register but was unsuccessful. "The portal is not sending OTPs to my mobile number. I have tried several times over the past few days, but the issue remains unresolved. While some students are able to register, many others like me are unable to complete the process," he said.

Students have also reported problems while entering travel details required for the pass application. Jagan N., a student from Rajajinagar in Bengaluru, said the portal was displaying incorrect boarding and destination points during registration. "When I tried applying through the Seva Sindhu portal, it was not showing the correct boarding and dropping points. Because of this, I was unable to complete my application properly," he said.

With schools and colleges having already reopened for the academic year, students who have not yet received their passes are being forced to pay bus fares for their daily commute. "Normally, we would obtain our bus pass and travel at concessional rates. This year, we are still waiting for the pass to be processed through the portal. Since we have not received it yet, we are paying the full fare every day, which has become difficult for many students," Jagan added.

The Transport Department officials, however, said they had not received widespread complaints regarding the issue. They said that if technical glitches were occurring, they could be isolated cases related to the portal.

The officials clarified that students who have already purchased bus passes for the current academic year can continue using them. The government has announced that the amount paid for such passes would be refunded within 15 days. According to official data, 19,792 students who purchased bus passes by paying the prescribed fee are currently eligible for reimbursement.

Administrative rejig in several departments

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government on Thursday effected a rejig of IAS officers, including the Managing Director of Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC), which will now be headed by Raghunandan Murthy, a 2014 batch IAS officer. Mr. Murthy will continue to hold an additional charge as Commissioner of Treasuries. Sivakumar K.B., who was the MD of BMTC, has been named the Managing Director of the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC). In addition, Manivannan P., Commissioner of the Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA), has been given concurrent charge as Commissioner of the Directorate of Urban Land Transport.

The government has also transferred Imkongla Jamir M., Resident Commissioner of Karnataka Bhavan in New Delhi, and posted as Secretary (Coordination), Karnataka Bhavan. Sameer Shukla, Secretary to the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, has been appointed Resident Commissioner, Karnataka Bhavan, New Delhi.

Prasad N.V., who was awaiting posting, has been appointed Secretary, Backward Classes Welfare Department. Thulasi Maddineni, who held the post, has been transferred as Secretary, Higher Education Department. Randeep D. has been posted as Secretary of the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department. Further, Ram Prasath Manohar V., Managing Director of Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited, has been given concurrent charge as Commissioner of Tourism.

Sateesha B.C., Director of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME), has been transferred as Commissioner of the Agriculture Department. Gyanendra Kumar Gangwar has been appointed Director of MSME in his place.

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MSME GROWTH CONCLAVE
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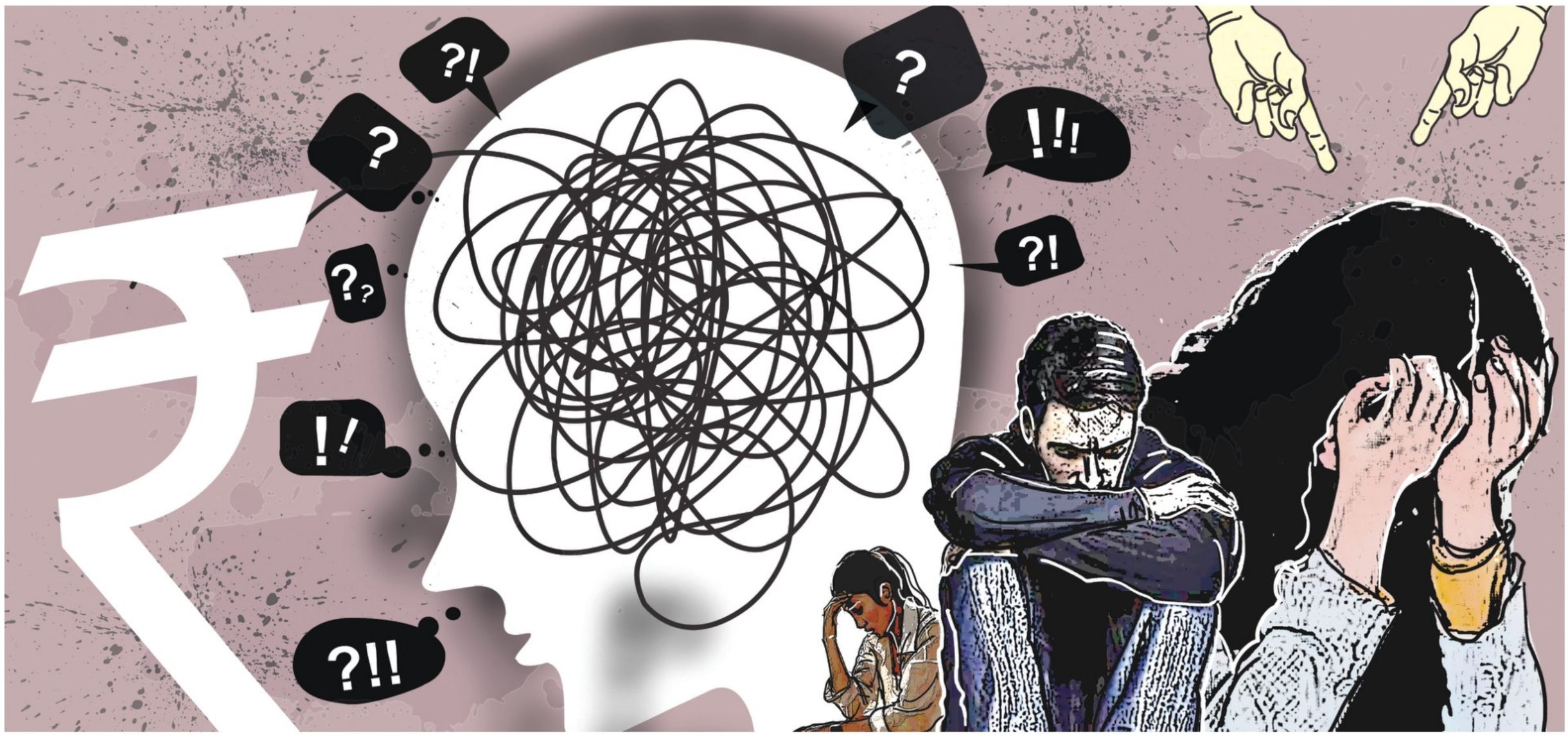

ILLUSTRATION: SEBASTIAN FRANCIS

Fight against suicide moves from hospitals to communities

As Karnataka grapples with one of the country's highest suicide burdens, emerging evidence from NIMHANS-led initiatives suggests that prevention may lie not only in hospitals and psychiatric clinics, but also in schools, panchayats, primary health centres and everyday community networks. **Afshan Yasmeen** recounts how the initative, set to be scaled up across the State from July, works on the ground

A debt of ₹5,000 pushed a 28-year-old garment factory worker from rural Karnataka into one of the darkest moments of her life. Unable to repay money borrowed from her mother for a chit fund payment, she was reprimanded at home. Hurt, angry, and overwhelmed, she consumed a disinfectant lying in the house. Within minutes, she began vomiting and was rushed to hospital by her husband.

Today, she does not describe the incident as a planned attempt to end her life. Instead, she remembers it as the result of mounting financial stress, family tensions, and a feeling that nobody understood what she was going through. "I felt like nobody understood my tension," she recalls.

At the hospital, she was connected to counsellors associated with Project SURAKSHA, a community-based suicide prevention initiative led by NIMHANS with support from the Karnataka government and corporate social responsibility funds. Through counselling, follow-up calls and family support, she gradually regained confidence.

"They listened patiently and helped me understand that family and money problems can be solved slowly and that I should not harm myself because of temporary stress," she says.

> When stigma decreases, people seek help and gatekeepers become more effective in preventing self-harm.
>
> **PRABHA S. CHANDRA,** NIMHANS Director

Multiple reasons

Her experience is far from unique. A 33-year-old homemaker struggling with debt and family disputes. A 16-year-old boy grieving the loss of both parents who reacted after a friend insulted them. A 57-year-old government school teacher devastated by a family conflict that spilled into her workplace. Circumstances differ, but the emotions are similar – grief, loneliness, shame, financial stress, family conflict and a sense of having nowhere to turn.

These stories illustrate a reality long emphasised by mental health professionals: suicide and self-harm rarely stem from a single event. More often, they emerge from accumulated distress that remains unrecognised, unsupported or untreated until a crisis occurs. This understanding has shaped Karnataka's evolving approach to suicide prevention – one that increasingly seeks to move beyond hospitals and specialist psychiatric services into communities.

Beyond clinical settings

"Community-based interventions are integral to suicide prevention. Engaging panchayat functionaries, schoolteachers, and other community influencers ensures that suicide is not hidden in the shadows," says NIMHANS Director Prabha S. Chandra. "When stigma decreases, people seek help and gatekeepers become more effective in preventing self-harm."

Dr. Chandra says evidence from Karnataka indicates that psychological interventions in emergency settings, followed by regular low-intensity follow-up contacts, can significantly reduce repeat attempts.

Anish V. Cherian, Principal Investigator of Project SURAKSHA and Lead of the NIMHANS Suicide Prevention, Research, Implementation Training and Engagement Centre (N-SPRITE), says the programme has shown that suicide prevention can be woven into everyday community life.

"SURAKSHA involves collaborations between community members, government agencies, the private sector and non-government organisations. It incorporates several elements of India's National Suicide Prevention Strategy and is the first long-term community-based suicide prevention programme developed and implemented in India," he says.

According to Dr. Cherian, the programme offers a model that can be adapted across the country and incorporated into State-level suicide prevention plans.

Karnataka's burden

The need for interventions becomes clear when viewed against Karnataka's suicide burden. According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), 1,70,746 people died by suicide in India in 2024. Karnataka remained among the five States reporting the highest numbers, accounting for 13,151 deaths, or 7.7% of the national total.

Bengaluru recorded the country's highest suicide rate among major metros. NCRB data showed over 2,313 suicides in 2022, 2,370 in 2023, and 2,430 in 2024, with the city's suicide rate remaining close to 20 per lakh population through the three-year period..

Yet, suicide deaths represent only the visible part of a much larger problem. Behind every death are many more individuals experiencing suicidal thoughts, emotional distress, self-harm, and suicide attempts.

Data generated through the Urban Self-Harm Study (USHAS), another NIMHANS-led initiative, provides a glimpse into this wider picture.

Between 2022 and May 2026, USHAS recorded 32,712 cases of self-harm and suicide attempts across 16 hospitals in Karnataka. Of these, 30,217 survived, representing 92.4% of all reported cases.

Among survivors, 24,361 people, or 80.6%, received psychosocial interventions, including brief counselling and structured telephone follow-up.

Rate of repeat attempts

Only 381 individuals, or 1.5% of those who received interventions, went on to make another suicide attempt. International studies estimate repeat-attempt rates among survivors at 15% to 25%.

Among the 381 who re-attempted suicide, 78 died, representing just 0.32% of all those who had received psychosocial support.

Rajani Parthasarathy, Karnataka's Deputy Director (Mental Health), says the findings highlight the importance of continued support after a suicide attempt.

"By equipping public health facilities to record details of survivors and linking them to referral services, we ensure that no survivor falls through the cracks. The brief interventions and long-term follow-up have resulted in significantly lower re-attempt rates."

Understanding vulnerability

The USHAS data also sheds light on the factors driving suicidal behaviour. Nearly half of all reported cases had a previous history of suicide attempts, while more than 43% had engaged in self-harm earlier.

Young adults emerged as the most affected group. People aged 25 to 39 accounted for 44.4% of all reported cases, followed by those aged 18 to 24.

Interpersonal relationship issues emerged as the most common trigger, accounting for 46% of all cases. Financial and property-related concerns contributed to 9.3% of cases, while physical illness and mental health conditions accounted for 5.4% and 5.3%, respectively.

The findings reinforce a pattern often observed by mental health professionals: suicidal behaviour is frequently linked to everyday challenges, strained relationships, family conflict, debt, illness and emotional distress.

When in distress, call...

- **TeleMANAS:** 1-8008914416/ 14416, Mon-Fri (4 p.m.-10 p.m.)
- **NIMHANS centre for well-being helpline:** 08026685948, 9480829670
- **SAHAI helpline:** 080 25497777, 91-9886444075, Mon-Sat (10 a.m.-8 p.m.)

Recognising that suicide prevention cannot rely solely on hospitals, NIMHANS launched Project SURAKSHA in Channapatna taluk in 2023.

Developed in line with India's National Suicide Prevention Strategy and the World Health Organization's LIVE LIFE framework, the initiative sought to bring suicide prevention into communities.

Instead of depending exclusively on psychiatrists and psychologists, it focused on building local networks capable of identifying distress early and connecting vulnerable individuals with help.

Teachers, panchayat representatives, Accredited Social Health Activists, anganwadi workers, healthcare staff, self-help group members and police personnel were trained as gatekeepers.

The idea was straightforward: people experiencing emotional distress often interact with community members long before they reach a mental health professional. By strengthening those connections, the programme sought to create opportunities for earlier intervention. Three years later, the programme has begun to demonstrate what such a approach can achieve.

Initially implemented across 32 gram panchayats in Channapatna, SURAKSHA is now being extended to all five taluks of Bengaluru South. The Karnataka government has also approved its first phase in Ballari district, another region that reports high suicide numbers..

Changing conversations

One of the most visible outcomes has been a shift in how communities talk about mental health. Leelavathi, Panchayat Development Officer of Nagavara Gram Panchayat in Channapatna taluk, says, "Earlier, people were afraid to openly speak about stress, depression or suicide. Many families suffered silently without knowing where to seek help."

Former Nagavara Gram Panchayat president Harish Kumar C.S. says emotional distress often remains hidden because of social stigma. "People openly discuss physical illness but often hide mental health problems because of shame or fear. Awareness programmes helped people understand that seeking help is not a weakness," he says.

For many people, the first conversation about emotional distress occurs not in a psychiatrist's clinic but during a school interaction, community meeting, visit by a frontline worker or conversation with a trusted local leader.

Strengthening primary healthcare

Another important aspect of SURAKSHA has been its effort to integrate suicide prevention into routine healthcare services.

Sahana Sitharam P., Medical Officer at Nagavara Primary Health Centre, says self-harm and emotional distress often went undetected in primary healthcare settings.

"Earlier, we focused more on emergencies and physical illness. Through training, staff became more confident in identifying vulnerable individuals and providing timely referrals," she says.

The programme introduced systems to record self-harm cases and ensure follow-up support. Such registries are important because previous suicide attempts remain among the strongest predictors of future suicide risk.

Alongside support for survivors, family-based postvention services have been delivered to 26,387 families affected by suicide attempts or deaths. These interventions focus on helping families cope with grief, reducing stigma and connecting them to available support systems.

Building evidence for policy

Experts say Karnataka's experience is important because it generates evidence on what works in suicide prevention.

Lakshmi Vijayakumar, member of the WHO Network on Suicide Prevention and Research, points out that India accounts for more than a fifth of global suicide deaths. The National Suicide Prevention Strategy, announced in 2022, aims to reduce suicide deaths by 10% by 2030.

Pointing out that suicide patterns vary considerably across States, Dr. Vijayakumar argues that local strategies are essential. "Suicide rates vary widely across India. Each State needs a strategy that takes its culture and context into consideration. Suicide is a preventable public health crisis and the time to act is now."

The Karnataka experience has also highlighted the role of collaboration.

K.G. Umesh, Director-Human Resources, Himalaya Wellness Company, the CSR partner for the projects, says suicide prevention requires long-term collaboration. "Beyond funding programmes, CSR can help bring together institutions, expertise and communities to address complex public health challenges in a sustained manner," he says.

Beginning in July, the USHAS programme will expand to all districts of Karnataka, operating through five hospitals in Bengaluru and district hospitals across the State.

The programmes demonstrate that suicide prevention need not remain confined to specialist psychiatric services. It can be integrated into schools, primary healthcare centres, panchayats, community organisations and families.

The stories of the garment worker, homemaker, teenager and school teacher illustrate that point. None were facing extraordinary circumstances. Financial stress, grief, family conflict and social humiliation are experiences encountered by countless people.

What transformed those experiences into crises was a temporary absence of support and an inability to see alternatives in moments of overwhelming emotional distress.

The interventions that helped them recover did not always begin with specialised treatment. More often, they began with something simpler – a conversation, a follow-up call, a teacher who noticed, a health worker who listened, or a community member who reached out.

Sanchith Sanjeev, who starred as the lead in the recent film *Mango Pachcha*, says he was conscious about debuting in an unconventional movie and opens up on the kind of roles he wants to do

Finding a foothold

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Sanchith Sanjeev, the nephew of Kichcha Sudeep, calls himself a "self-aware actor." Shortly after his debut, *Mango Pachcha* hit the screens on June 5, 2026, the actor was compared to his Kannada superstar uncle. "I take it with a lot of pride when people say I resemble Sudeep sir. You are comparing me with a man who has been in the industry for 30 years. He is somebody who has made a name for himself across the country." He adds, "I am here to make my identity. But give me that time to show who I am as an actor."

Sudeep was part of the film's final schedule, mentoring debutant director Viveka. Sanchith remembers being in awe of Sudeep's filmmaking abilities. "Before a scene, he is very picky. He has several questions about a character and point out aspects that we might have missed while reading the script," he explains.

"Be it the way a character talks or how they dress, he is quite particular about how a character is presented. He is very specific about framing and the kind of background against which a scene unfolds."

Sanchith's debut surprised people as it lacked the typical hero-introduction songs, punchlines, or 'massy' scenes associated with the launch of star kids. The movie is a slick, character-driven crime drama that revolves around the illegal drug cultivation racket in Mysuru of the mid-2000s.

"When I heard the story of *Mango Pachcha*, I felt the film had a good character graph for the protagonist. More than it becoming a 'star film', I felt the movie had great potential to show me as a good performer," says Sanchith, adding that throughout the movie, "we were conscious that we would not show any scene that made me look like a star. Currently, I am building my reputation and still getting introduced to Kannada audiences. If I start behaving like a star too soon, the audience will write me off."

Talking about his biggest takeaway about acting, Sanchith quotes a line from the popular series *The Crown*. "There is a dialogue from the series that says, 'I am aware that I am surrounded by people who feel that they could do the job better.' So, cutting out that noise is crucial for me as an actor," reasons Sanchith, adding he believes in making his own judgements.

> ***If you start overanalysing your feelings, there is no magic left. For now, I am trying to be a good actor. If you appreciate me, I take it as an encouragement. If you didn't like my performance, please feel free to express that.***
>
> **SANCHITH SANJEEV**
> Actor

Sanchith was convincing in his intense portrayal in *Mango Pachcha*. He plays a vulnerable youngster yearning for respect from society, so much so that he gets into illegal drug trading to earn money and live a lavish lifestyle in front of those who behaved badly with his family.

The actor says he wants to explore diverse themes, including a romantic comedy. "With the people I am very fond of, with whom I can be relaxed, I am an easy-going person, though I might look serious. My body language comes across like that. Not every funny person has to be excited all the time," he says. "I'm looking forward to doing a light-hearted movie where I play a happy-go-lucky character. I'm a big fan of Imtiaz Ali. I want to do a romantic drama with a lot of depth. If it's a comedy, I want it to have a big heart. I can't do anything superficial."

Can he pick a Kannada equivalent of Imtiaz Ali? "I don't think there is anyone," opines Sanchith. "The closest film I have resonated with as far as the portrayal of relationship dynamics is concerned is Suri's *Inthi Ninna Preethiya* (2008). The film showed what loss can do to a person. I also liked *Just Maath Maathalli* (2010). But what happened to these movies? They were accepted much later. Where were these people when these movies were released? They pushed the creators to a situation where they decided not to attempt such stories," says Sanchith, who feels that the industry has a long way to go where writing complex yet engaging relationship dramas is concerned. "We need to start respecting our writers by paying them well. If we don't, people will quit their film dreams and opt for a 9-5 job."

With *Mango Pachcha*, the nepotism debate has resurfaced in the Kannada film industry. Sanchith has no qualms in accepting that actors from film families get early access to the industry. But he points out that nobody can grow without people's acceptance.

"I don't want to understand what it takes to be accepted by people. The minute I start thinking that way, I will put myself in a bracket. If you start overanalysing your feelings, there is no magic left. For now, I am trying to be a good actor. If you appreciate me, I take it as an encouragement. If you didn't like my performance, please feel free to express that."

Sanchith was supposed to make his directorial debut with *Jimmy* before he put that movie on hold for *Mango Pachcha*.

Star in the making Sanchith Sanjeev; (left) a still from *Mango Pachcha*. RAVICHANDRAN N / SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In war and peace

Established in 1979, the Madras Sappers Museum and Archives chronicles the Madras Engineer Group's history

A matter of pride The Madras Sappers Museum and Archives. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

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Two years ago, Kayal Kanni, the granddaughter of a Sapper, Marimuthu, visited the Madras Sappers Museum and Archives (MSMA) – that showcases the history of the Madras Engineer Group (called the Sappers, a regiment raised in 1780) – in Bengaluru to learn about how her grandfather passed away. According to her, his family came to know of his death only after the war ended, via a prisoner of war from a neighbouring village. Then, they learnt that he had been part of the Madras Sappers. "So we visited the museum to learn more," she says. Here they were showed his photographs, says Colonel Uday Sankeshwar (retired), Director, MSMA, which opened to the public on June 1, 2026.

This experience, among many others, is perhaps what led the Indian Army to open the Madras Sappers Museum to the public for the first time since it was first set up in 1979. The museum, he shares, was started with the intention of telling the history of the Sappers, the oldest regiment of the Corps of Engineers of the Indian Army. "The team began with collecting artefacts such as workshop instruments, medals, machinery, weapons, and photographs that were gifted to the museum by retired officers," says Colonel Uday.

The museum houses an outdoor gallery and an indoor one that spans three halls. Over 250 photographs have been restored and showcase the Sappers' history: snapshots of drill practice at Ulsoor Lake, a group repairing a breach in a railway line near the Tigris in West Asia and victory parades to name a few. Some prized artefacts include a 13th century fired clay vase from China, a bronze bell from China's Peiping Temple, a Japanese samurai sword, intricately hand-drawn Burma and Indo-China maps on silk, and a mural made by a thambi (the Madras Sappers' troops are fondly referred to as thambis).

Madras Sappers Museum and Archives is at The MEG Centre, Kensington Road, Ulsoor. Open from 9am to 3pm; closed on Sundays. Tickets are priced ₹50 for an adult and ₹20 for a child below 10 years. For details, call 6363838095.

A life in verse

Bengaluru-based writer Roopa Pai on *Every Day a Celebration*, a collection of 102 poems by KS Nisar Ahmed that she has translated

Life changing encounter KS Nisar Ahmed and Roopa Pai at Bengaluru's Sapna Book House. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

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It began with a series of Facebook posts exactly a decade ago. Between November 1 and 7, 2016, to celebrate Karnataka Rajyotsava, Roopa Pai translated and posted poems of various Kannada poets on the social networking platform. "People felt touched and happy that Kannada poets were being celebrated like that," says the Bengaluru-based writer.

One of the poems she translated was by KS Nisar Ahmed, best known for 'Nityotsava', a paean to Karnataka, which was later set to music, becoming a cultural icon of sorts within the state."I didn't know very much about Nisar apart from 'Nityotsava'. But when I saw this poem called 'Hakku', I thought it was cute," says Roopa, recalling how "satirical, sardonic and tongue-in-cheek" it was.

Then, in January the following year, she bumped into Nisar at an event at Bengaluru's Sapna Book House. "They were celebrating their 50th anniversary and had invited a few authors," says Roopa, who showed him her translation of this poem and told him she wanted to translate more. "He told me to go ahead."

That was the genesis of *Every Day a Celebration* (Seagull Books), a recently-released collection of Nisar's poems, personally selected by the poet and translated by Roopa.

"When I began to read his poems, I was struck by the range of his work. He was responding to whatever was happening in his environment," recalls Roopa, listing some of the themes explored in these poems: politics, communal conflict, identity, Bengaluru, America, philosophy. "He was difficult to slot, but his concerns were many, and his spirit was always humane and compassionate, without taking strong sides."

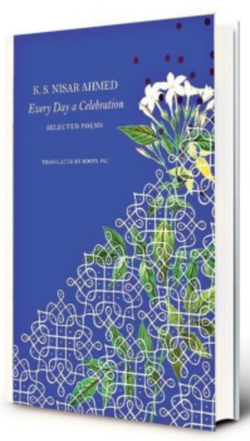
By April 2020, the poems were translated. She sent them to Nisar, who appeared happy about it," says Roopa.

But on May 3, something tragic happened: Nisar passed away. "I woke up to this news, and I was just devastated." It shook something in her, and she found it impossible to work on these poems with the same urgency any more. "Now that he was gone, I wondered what the point was any more, since he would never see it. So, I just did not look at them for three whole years."

Finally, in 2024 or so, she picked up the project again and managed to send the final manuscript to the publisher by August that year, says Roopa.

The anthology is finally available at all major bookstores and on Amazon. Despite all the delays and the challenges, she confesses to being delighted with the final result.

"I don't know how good the translation is, but the few people who have read it so far have liked it. For me, it is a big validation," she says, admitting that despite being a Kannadiga herself, she has always felt like a bit of an imposter, because she tended to read English literature more than Kannada. "For me, this effort is my little offering of gratitude to the language."



The launch of Every Day a Celebration *will be held on June 27, 11.30am, at Bookworm, Bengaluru.*

STEPOUT

Laugh out loud

Stand-up comedian Shamik Chakrabarti, a former electrical engineer known for his deadpan delivery, sharp observations, and intelligent humour, will perform in the city this weekend.
At Fan Park, Phoenix Mall of Asia, Byatarayanapura, on June 20, 7pm onwards. Tickets, priced from ₹699, are available on BookMyShow.

Theatrical tales

Apurva Kasaravalli's new play *Shurpanakhi*, a dance-drama reimagining a mythological figure through a feminist lens, will be staged. The production, choreographed, directed and performed by Vandana Supriya Kasaravalli, blends Odissi with Yakshagana.
At Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar on June 21, with shows at 3.30pm and 7.30pm. Tickets, priced at ₹350, are available on BookMyShow.

Books and drama

Dum Dama Dum, a theatre and reading festival by Atta Galatta, will feature plays for children and families from renowned theatre groups. Additionally, children can enter a world of books by their favourite authors and publishers, at the bookstore.
At Atta Galatta, Indiranagar on June 20, between 3pm and 7.30pm. Tickets and day passes available on Urbanaut.

Congress's victory, 11 additional votes bolster DKS in his first test

The Congress held its fort tightly, and the election preparation seems to have been meticulously planned and executed

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

The victory of all five candidates in the Legislative Council elections and 11 additional votes that the Congress gathered from the cross-voting from BJP and Janata Dal (Secular) will not only give the ruling party a clear majority in the Upper House, but is also expected to elevate the image of Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar within the Congress. For, the cross-voting from the BJP comes at a time when multiple regional parties across the country are in a turmoil.

The Congress with 135 votes along with support of two independents, one member of Sarvodaya Karnataka Paksha and two expelled members of the BJP, was assured of 140 votes, while it eventually managed to secure 11 more votes from the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) partners.

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar during a meeting before casting his vote in the Legislative Council elections in Bengaluru on Thursday. PTI

The victory is expected to strengthen the hands of the Chief Minister, who faced his first big test after assuming power, as he settles down in the post. It is also seen as a message to the JD(S) as to what it can expect with Mr. Shivakumar likely to work on consolidation of the Vokkaliga voter base.

Coming amid speculation over cross-voting, the Congress also held its fort tightly, and the election preparation seems to have been meticulously planned and executed.

The party under the Chief Minister's supervision had held three mock votings ahead of the polls to train its legislators, especially the first-timers.

Sources said, "Cross-voting from Congress did not happen due to multiple factors. One factor was the Chief Minister's power within the party. And legislators were also aware of the influence of former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in their respective constituencies, and had the fear of losing out on minority votes."

A clear majority in the House gives Congress the strength to ensure passage of Bills in the Upper House without much trouble.

Some of the Bills include the Karnataka Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, Karnataka Souharda Sahakari (Amendment) Bill and Karnataka Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments (Amendment) Bill, which had been stalled by the Opposition before eventually being passed. With the victory in five seats, Congress will have 39 members in the 75-member Upper House.

A Congress source also said that the majority for the party will allow it to have its members being elected to the post of Chairman and Deputy Chairman currently held by Basavaraj Horatti and M.K. Pranesh.

"The party, which is under pressure from aspirants for the Cabinet, could accommodate two such persons in these posts. The changes could be effected as early as in the next Monsoon Session," sources added.

Cross-voting leaves BJP red-faced; high command likely to initiate action

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

Cross-voting by at least three BJP MLAs, which could be as many as six, in favour of the Congress in the Council elections held on Thursday, has left the party red-faced, especially at a time when several opposition MPs elsewhere in the country appear to be breaking away from their parties and extending support to the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok and State BJP president B.Y. Vijayendra with party-elected candidates Lingaraj Patil and Raghu R., who emerged victorious in the Council elections.

Three or six?

Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok told mediapersons that three of their MLAs had cross-voted in favour of the Congress. "We will definitely find out who cross-voted and betrayed the party. It will come out. The party will take suitable action against them," he said.

The BJP has a strength of 63 MLAs in the Assembly. The party had allotted 30 votes each to its two candidates, R. Raghu (Kautilya) and Lingaraj Patil. The former secured 29 votes, with one vote declared invalid, while the latter polled 27 votes.

He did not secure the required number of votes in the first round and eventually won with the help of second-preference votes, further embarrassing the party. Mr. Ashok argued that at least three BJP MLAs had cross-voted.

However, the BJP had allotted four votes – three from its MLAs and one from expelled MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal (who had announced support to the BJP) – to the JD(S).

Another leader said Union Home Minister Amit Shah will not take defections from the BJP lightly

While the BJP maintains that these votes were transferred, JD(S) sources claim this did not happen. Excluding Mr. Yatnal's vote, who is not bound to any party, the extent of cross-voting from the BJP could go up to six.

'Changes expected'

The fiasco is likely to lead to structural changes in the State leadership of the party, which was already under contemplation, sources said.

"This is a clear reflection of the sorry state of affairs in the party – disgruntlement, factionalism, lack of control over MLAs and opposition to the alliance with the JD(S)," a senior party leader, who did not wish to be named, said.

'Tighten control'

"Coming just two years before the Assembly polls in the State, the party high command will not take this lightly and is likely to tighten control over the State unit," he added.

Another leader said Union Home Minister Amit Shah would not take defections from the BJP lightly.

The term of party president B.Y. Vijayendra – against whose leadership there has been open rebellion – ends in November.

There has also been speculation that the party may appoint a new Leader of Opposition in the Assembly, given that D.K. Shivakumar, a Vokkaliga, has assumed charge. The current Leader of Opposition, Mr. Ashok, is also a Vokkaliga.

'Driving factionalism'

However, another senior leader said that only Mr. Vijayendra and Mr. Ashok cannot be blamed, arguing that it was a failure of the collective leadership. He added that some leaders had been "driving factionalism" ever since Mr. Vijayendra took charge.

Defeat of JD(S) candidate forces party to introspect

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The embarrassing defeat of Janata Dal (Secular) candidate Govindaraju, who secured just 14 votes following cross-voting from his party colleagues, appears to have shocked the party leadership. Though the party was hopeful of putting up a decent fight, it eventually crumbled amid cross-voting. However, with the State Assembly elections less than two years away, party leaders believe the Council poll result will not affect the larger party base, though it calls for introspection to strengthen the organisation at the grassroots. JD(S) sources claimed that its legislators had been offered inducements by the ruling party to cross-vote.

The party, a BJP ally in the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), believes that while four of its legislators cross-voted, the BJP votes assured to it also did not materialise. At the last moment, the BJP, which was planning to allocate 29 votes to its candidates, increased the quota to 30 to ensure victory, thereby reducing the numbers of the JD(S). The JD(S), with 18 legislators of its own, had hoped to secure the support of six BJP legislators, besides G. Janaradhan Reddy and expelled BJP member Basannagouda Patil Yatnal, to garner 26 votes. However, the outcome came as a shock. Senior JD (S) leader G.T. Devegowda, who had distanced himself from the party leadership, said he had voted as per his "conscience", triggering speculation. Sources said the party had a fair idea of who the four legislators were.

One of the reasons for the party fielding a candidate was to keep its flock together, which did not hold, sources said, adding that the cross-voting had caused disappointment. "We have assured all the sitting legislators of renomination in the 2028 Assembly polls, and had extended the party's support during elections. If legislators cross-vote, it is sad," sources said.

From Page One

Council polls: Cong. wins five seats amid cross-voting

The results immediately triggered tensions among the NDA partners as the BJP insisted that four of its candidates had indeed voted in favour of the JD(S) candidate Govindaraju. The regional party refuted the claim and said that the BJP members did not vote in its favour. Mr. Govindaraju got 14 votes as against the regional party's strength of 18 in the Legislative Assembly.

Eventually, the Congress candidates - KPCC president B.K. Hariprasad, B.S. Shivanna, P.V. Mohan, Thippannappa Kamaknoor and Vinay Karthik – won the elections, along with the BJP candidates Lingaraj Patil and R. Raghu. Except Mr. Patil, all others were declared winners after the first round of counting. One vote polled in favour of Mr. Raghu was declared invalid.

The BJP's embarrassment was more intense as their candidate Mr. Patil, who had been allocated 30 votes, received 27, and was declared winner in the elimination round. Based on the votes received by Mr. Patil, the BJP claimed that only three of its legislators cross-voted.

The cross-voting, however, has exposed chinks in the faction-ridden BJP's State unit. Coming two years ahead of the Assembly polls, this will likely lead to the party high command taking more control of the State unit, sources said.

The Congress's fifth candidate Mr. Karthik, who did not have the required number before the polls, finally received 32 votes – the highest among all candidates in the fray. He is the grandson of former Congress leader the late Sahukar Chennaiah.

The Congress that has claimed strength of 140 seats in the 224-member Assembly, managed to receive 151 votes together across five candidates.

Congress general secretary in charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala told presspersons that the party receiving 11 more votes than expected was "historic."

Mr. Shivakumar expressed "surprise" at these additional votes. "The number of legislators from other parties have reposed trust in us. Hope they will continue to have trust in our programmes."

When asked about cross-voting, he said, "I do not know who has voted in our favour. I have not spoken to anyone."

Meanwhile, Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok acknowledged that three of their legislators had cross-voted.

"We will know who it is and the party will decide (on action). There was one invalid vote too," he said.

Votes polled by candidates

Congress		BJP	
B.K. Hariprasad	30	R. Raghu (Kautilya)	29
Tippannappa Kamaknoor	30	Lingaraj Patil	27
B.S. Shivanna	30		
P.V. Mohan	29	JD(S)	
Vinay Karthik	32	Govindaraju	14

- Cross-voting **11**
- Strength of Congress **140**
- Votes polled by Congress candidates **151**
- Cross-voting from BJP **at least 3, could go up to 6**
- Cross-voting from JD(S) **at least 4, could go up to 8**

- BJP allotted 30 votes each to its two candidates **R. Raghu (Kautilya) and Lingaraj Patil.**
- Raghu (Kautilya) polled **29 votes** + a vote was judged invalid
- Lingaraj Patil polled only **27 votes**
- At least **3 MLAs** allotted to Lingaraj Patil cross-voted

- JD(S) candidate Govindaraju had **18 votes,** BJP allotted **4 votes** - 3 BJP MLAs and expelled BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, who had announced support to BJP
- Govindaraju polled only **14 votes**
- At least **4 JD(S) MLAs** cross-voted

- BJP claims it transferred **4 votes,** implying **cross-voting from JD(S) was 8**
- JD(S) claims it did not get BJP votes, implying cross-voting from BJP was 6, excluding Yatnal who is technically not affiliated to the BJP

Two expelled BJP MLAs support Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two BJP MLAs expelled from the party, S.T. Somashekar (Yeshwanthpur) and Shivaram Hebbar (Yellapur), appeared to have voted in favour of the Congress.

'As per conscience'

Speaking to reporters, both legislators said they had voted "according to their conscience" and expressed hope that the Congress government would release development funds for their constituencies.

The former Ministers said the BJP had neither approached them nor sought their support for the elections. They revealed that they had met Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar at a resort on Wednesday, where he sought their support and assured them of funds for constituency development.

"At least as a matter of courtesy, BJP leaders could have spoken to us. The Chief Minister and former Chief Minister met us and sought our support. Why should we vote for the BJP?" they asked.

The MLAs reiterated that voting was conducted through a secret ballot and that they had exercised their franchise according to their conscience.

Both legislators were allotted separate seats in the Legislative Assembly during the session. However, Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, another MLA expelled from the BJP, met party leaders and voted in favour of the BJP. He too was provided a separate seat in the Assembly.

Will cross-voting affect BJP-JD(S) alliance?

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The cross-voting in the elections held for seven Legislative Council seats to be elected from the Assembly in Karnataka on Thursday seems to have exposed chinks in the BJP-JD(S) alliance in the State.

This gains significance, as it comes just months ahead of zilla panchayat and taluk panchayat elections, apart from civic polls in Bengaluru.

The BJP had allotted three of its votes along with that of Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, an expelled BJP MLA who had announced support to the party, for the JD(S), which had 18 votes of its own. JD(S) candidate Govindaraju finally got only 14 votes, as against a total of 22 votes allotted to him.

While BJP claims that the four allotted by BJP voted for JD(S), taking the potential cross-voting from the regional party to eight, JD(S) says their four MLAs cross-voted and vote transfer did not happen from BJP.

While the alliance with the JD(S) has been stitched together by the national leadership of the BJP, a number of its State leaders have been uncomfortable and opposed to the same.

Meanwhile, even at the recent State executive meeting of the party, B.S. Yediyurappa called upon party workers to work towards bringing BJP to power "independently" in 2028, not acknowledging the party's alliance with the JD(S).

If indeed votes allotted to BJP for the JD(S) candidate went to the Congress, it could be a reflection of this disgruntlement over alliance with the regional party.

The doubt in JD(S) leaders' mind over votes not being transferred from BJP and in addition, H.D. Deve Gowda being denied a Rajya Sabha berth, might also play out in the coming days, sources said.

However, a senior JD(S) leader said that this ought not lead to any disturbance in the alliance, and if it did, it would hamper the interests of both the parties.

G.T. Deve Gowda on cross-voting: Prove it

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

G.T. Deve Gowda

Amid speculation that former Minister and JD(S) MLA G.T. Deve Gowda had cross-voted in the Legislative Council elections on Thursday, he said he had "voted according to his conscience" and challenged anyone to prove that he had engaged in cross-voting.

Fears of cross-voting were evident across all three major political parties, particularly after Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar fielded his loyalist Vinay Karthik against JD(S) candidate Govindaraju for the seventh seat.

Mr. Gowda has been maintaining a distance from the JD(S) during the last few months, and this led to speculation about cross-voting. As Mr. Gowda arrived alone in the morning to cast his vote, a section of the media reported that the JD(S) legislator may have cross-voted.

However, he later dismissed the speculation. "I was not feeling well, which is why I came early to vote. I voted according to my conscience. Our party's candidate will win. They say someone has cross-voted. Let them prove it," he said.

The MLA further said that JD(S) State president and Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy had not been in touch with him. "No one has contacted me since morning. Mr. Kumaraswamy also knows that the JD(S) candidate will win," he added.

Yatnal's letter

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Congress took objection to expelled legislator Basanagouda Patil Yatnal announcing that he would vote for the BJP before entering the polling booth. V.S. Ugrappa alleged that the MLA had violated Rule 39 of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, by writing to BJP national president Nitin Nabin stating he would vote for the party and sharing it online. However, the Returning Officer rejected the objection and counted the vote.

Voting for another

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

While four Congress candidates were allotted 30 votes each by the party, Vinay Karthik (the fifth candidate) secured 32 votes. Meanwhile P.V. Mohan secured 29 votes.

This was because one legislator reportedly voted for the former instead of the latter.

Interestingly, the Congress held three rounds of mock voting to train MLAs on Wednesday, after 15 votes were found invalid in the first mock round.

Sabarimala gold case: High Court asks SIT to file detailed report by June 29

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The special investigation team (SIT) inquiring into the alleged misappropriation of gold from the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple informed the Kerala High Court on Thursday that it has established a clear sequence of events that led to the removal of the Dwarapalaka idols from the temple for gold plating.

During the hearing, a Division Bench of Justices Raja Vijayaraghavan and K.V. Jayakumar directed the SIT to submit a detailed report on the investigation by June 29. The report should include the extent of involvement of the persons concerned, role of each accused in the transactions related to transportation and gold-plating of the idols in 2025, and the specific time frame for the submission of the final report before the Inquiry Commissioner and Special Judge (Vigilance), Kollam.

The report, submitted by S. Sasidharan, head of the SIT, disclosed that the chain of events was established from the documents seized, communication exchanged among the accused, and various decisions, orders, and proceedings of the Travancore Devaswom Board that ultimately facilitated the transportation and removal of the idols for gold-plating.

Further, the aspect of criminal conspiracy, the role of the accused who were in responsible positions, and their involvement in the misappropriation were under investigation, it said.

The suo motu petition was initiated on a report by the Special Commissioner, Sabarimala, that the gold-clad copper coverings of the Dwarapalaka idols, located on either side of the Sreekovil, were removed for gold plating without prior intimation in 2025.

The court had constituted the SIT in 2025 to conduct a thorough independent investigation into the alleged misappropriation, after noting a series of grave irregularities and possible acts of misappropriation, allegedly carried out with the active connivance of officials of the Travancore Devaswom Board.

The court asked the SIT to submit the detailed report on or before June 29.

T.N. govt. vows to take steps to halt Mekedatu project

'Tamil Nadu has had the right to use Cauvery water since time immemorial; even after our right was upheld by the Supreme Court, we have to struggle every year to obtain Cauvery water'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

In his customary address to the Tamil Nadu Assembly on Thursday, Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar pointed out that the Cauvery delta is the granary of Tamil Nadu and the river is the main source of irrigation for farmers of this region.

He said, "Tamil Nadu has had the right to use Cauvery water since time immemorial. Even after our right was upheld by the Supreme Court, we have to struggle every year to obtain Cauvery water."

"Instead of giving our due share of water, only surplus water is being released to Tamil Nadu by Karnataka. In this situation, the Government of Karnataka is attempting to implement the Mekedatu project. If this project is implemented, agricultural production as well as farmers' livelihoods will be severely affected. This government is taking legal measures to halt it and secure water for Tamil Nadu at the right time," the Governor said

The Tamil Nadu government will take firm measures to foil Kerala's attempt to build a new Mullaperiyar dam, carry out repairs in the dam area, and raise the water level of the dam, Mr. Arlekar said.

Cauvery river flowing through a deep and narrow gorge at Mekedatu. FILE PHOTO

In 2014, the Supreme Court ordered that the water level be raised to 142 feet and advised that it be raised further to 152 feet after the dam was strengthened.

"However, the government of Kerala, while continuing to refuse permission to strengthen the dam, has been pressing its demand for building a new dam," he said.

Historic temples

To improve the administration of the State's historic temples, the government will carry out structural reforms in the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Department. Measures will be taken to fully audit all temple properties, land, and endowment revenues and introduce transparent computerised accounts, he said.

"Administrative malpractices that prevailed in earlier times will be eliminated, and the government will ensure that all movable and immovable assets of the temples are used solely for their sacred purposes," he said.

The government will also fill the posts of Assistant Professor and teaching staff that have been lying vacant for a long time at the State's universities and higher education institutions in a transparent manner, strictly based on eligibility and merit.

CM expresses willingness to talk to Tamil Nadu

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Expressing willingness to discuss Mekedatu drinking water project with Tamil Nadu, Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Thursday said that the neighbouring State has used the issue as "political agenda" for the past 40 years.

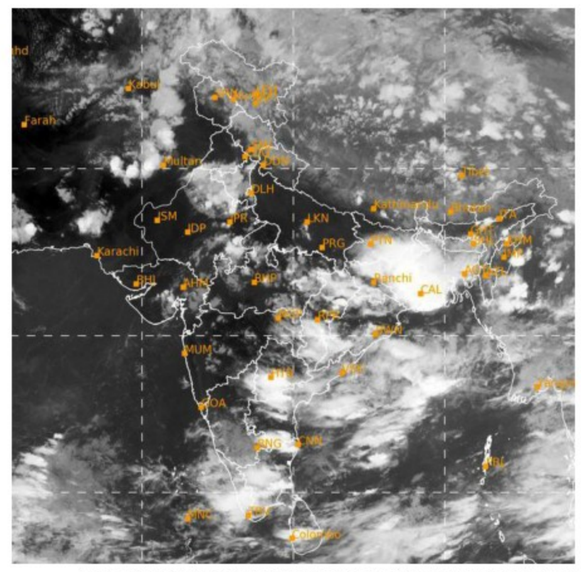
"I will not interfere in their politics. They are building plenty of dams downstream and we have not raised any objection. I am ready to talk with them anytime," the Chief Minister told presspersons here in response to Tamil Nadu government proposing to explore legal avenues to stall Mekedatu project. On the Congress being part of the government in Tamil Nadu, he said, "We will make whatever appeal need to be made to them."

Describing the project as the "heart of South India", he said, "The project is not close to my heart alone, but protects the interest of both States. The Supreme Court has stated that the decision on the project should be made by the Central Water Commission." Stating that this was a balancing reservoir, he said that not a single bucket of water will be used for irrigation. "It will be used only to supply drinking water to Bengaluru. We cannot bring water from Krishna."

The Governor said the dam is the lifeline of the people of the southern districts.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.45 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. Heat wave conditions likely at isolated places over Uttar Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra. Dust storm likely at isolated places over Rajasthan

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	19	32.2	25.2	Kurnool	—	39.4	28.5
Ahmedabad	—	39.3	26.0	Lucknow	—	40.4	29.6
Aizawl	1	32.8	23.1	Madurai	4	37.0	24.6
Bengaluru	—	26.4	22.3	Mangaluru	22	29.2	23.1
Bhopal	14	37.0	25.2	Mumbai	—	34.6	28.5
Bhubaneswar	—	38.9	26.6	Mysuru	18	31.4	20.0
Chandigarh	—	38.6	26.8	New Delhi	—	39.5	27.9
Chennai	17.2	38.5	28.6	Patna	—	40.3	30.6
Coimbatore	0.8	29.2	23.0	Port Blair	2	28.8	25.4
Dehradun	—	36.5	24.2	Prayagraj	5	41.8	27.1
Gangtok	34	23.2	18.0	Puducherry	0.2	36.4	28.0
Goa	—	34.4	26.8	Pune	—	36.7	26.9
Guwahati	0.7	34.0	25.2	Raipur	—	39.4	27.8
Hubballi	—	33.0	22.0	Ranchi	—	35.1	25.0
Hyderabad	—	38.0	29.0	Shillong	7	22.5	16.0
Imphal	—	31.2	25.5	Shimla	25	29.1	17.2
Jaipur	—	39.2	28.6	Srinagar	—	27.2	15.6
Kochi	3	29.4	26.2	Thiruvananthapuram	8	31.7	24.8
Kohima	—	26.0	18.0	Tiruchirappalli	6	35.1	27.0
Kolkata	—	37.4	29.7	Vijayawada	—	33.5	27.0
Kozhikode	8	31.4	25.2	Visakhapatnam	15	30.0	25.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — Yesterday: —

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.91	..20	28	 52	70	
Bengaluru	...2	..—	42	 47	...111	
Chennai	...6	..10	85	 45	74	
Delhi	.27	106	37	... 180	...231	
Hyderabad	.13	..16	40	 60	87	
Kolkata	...8	..42	48	 59	63	
Lucknow	.10	8	43	... 101	...119	
Mumbai	...2	..34	22	 61	75	
Pune	..—	..34	99	 40	84	
Visakhapatnam	.21	..82	12	 64	...113	

Air Quality Code: Poor · Moderate · Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mr. Shyam Kumar Mareddy S/o Late Lakshma Reddy Mareddy, resident of Villa No-744, Adarsh Palm Retreat, Bellandur, Bengaluru-560103, am the joint plot owner bearing BBMP Katha No. 22/8/9/28 situated R. Narayanapura, K. R. Puram, Bangalore East (coming within BBMP Ward No.84, Hagadoor).

I hereby notify the general public that the following documents:

1) Original Sale Deed dated 26-02-2020, registered as Document No. INR-1-10604-2019-20, CD No. INRD535,Book-I, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Indiranagar, Bangalore

2) Original Deed of Amalgamation Document No:2278/2020-21 Book-1, Stored in CD No. KRID1032 Dated:10-08-2020 in the office of Sub-Registrar KRPuram, Bangalore

3) Original Amalgamation Rectification Deed Document No:2468/2020-21 Book-1, Stored in CD No. KRID1037 Dated:17-08-2020 in the office of Sub-Registrar, KR Puram, Bangalore

pertaining to the above property, has been lost/misplaced and is not traceable despite diligent search.

In this regard, a complaint/FIR, has been lodged with the jurisdictional Police Station on 15/06/2026 and necessary steps have been taken to trace the document.

Any person who finds or is in possession of the aforesaid Deeds is requested to return the same to the undersigned at the address mentioned below.

The general public is further informed that any transaction, dealing, agreement, mortgage, charge, lien, claim, encumbrance, or creation of any third-party rights in respect of the aforesaid property by any person other than the undersigned shall be null and void and at the sole risk and responsibility of such person. No person other than the undersigned has any right, title, interest, claim, or authority whatsoever in relation to the said property.

Sd/- Mr. Shyam Kumar Mareddy,
Owner, Address: Villa No-744,
Adarsh Palm Retreat, Bellandur,
Bengaluru-560103. Mobile: 99000 18533
Place: Bengaluru, Date: 19.06.2026

SANJAY GANDHI INSTITUTE OF TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDICS
(Government of Karnataka Autonomous Institute)

Byrasandra, Jayanagara East, Bengaluru - 560 011 Ph: 080-26564516, 26562500 Grams: SITO Fax: 26565222 E-mail: sitodirector@gmail.com
No. SGITO/e-Tender/Instruments/ME/340/2026-27 Date: 17-06-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal only)

Sanjay Gandhi Institute of Trauma & Orthopaedics, Byrasandra, Jayanagara East, Bengaluru - 11 invites tender from the eligible tenderers through the KPP portal of GOK for the following.

Sl No.	Description
1.	No. SGITO/e-Tender/ME/Hitachi/340/2026-27 **SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENTS ON TURNKEY BASIS**
2.	No. SGITO/e-Tender/Instruments/340/2026-27 **SUPPLY OF GENERAL AND AO INSTRUMENTS**

(1) The Tenderers can download the documents from: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** on or after **19-06-2026** and the last date for submission of completed tenders through e-portal is **04-07-2026** upto **4:00** PM.
(2) The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to accept / reject or cancel tender without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/- Director
Tender Inviting Authority
DIPR/SI/1233/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
KOPPAL INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (R), KOPPAL (ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರದ ಸ್ವಾಯತ್ತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ)
ನೊಂದಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:KOL-S243-2012-13 ದಿನಾಂಕ:15–03–2013
Website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in email: directorkimskoppal@gmail.com
Office : 08539 225522 Office : 08539-225523

No:KIMS/Koppal/Tender/2026-27 Date: 17/06/2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tender is invited for Supply of Tablets, Capsules, Syrup, Ointment & Miscellaneous Item and Fetal Maternal Monitoring System to Dist Teaching Hospital KIMS Koppal under two cover Bid system as per KTPP Act 1999 rule 2000 KPPP portal of Government of Karnataka.
1) Tender Approximate Cost for Tablets, Capsules etc.,: **54.74 Lakhs**, EMD **Rs.1,10,000/-**
2) Tender Approximate Cost for Fetal Monitoring System: **46.00 Lakhs**, EMD **Rs.92,000/-**
3) Tender documents may download from the **18/06/2026** from 05.30 PM
4) Last Date for Submission of Tender **04.07.2026** up to 05.30 PM

Further information may be obtained from the above office during office hours & also from Website:https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and this office web-site https://kimskoppal.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-Director, KIMS Koppal.
DIPR/Koppal/172/KSMCA/2026-27

Govt. of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Vijayapur
Tel.No:08352-277816, Fax.No:08352-277817,
E-Mail:zpebjp9@yahoo.co.in
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕಾಇಂ/ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇ.ವಿ/ವಿಜ/ಇಪ್ರಾ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/2026–27/777 ದಿನಾಂಕ:18.06.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Two Cover System)

Executive Engineer, PRE Division, Vijayapura has invited e-tender for the works under the 4202 KPS Grant scheme for the year 2023-24 Work Indent No. RDPR/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT25954) **for General Bidders,** Rs.282.88 Lakhs Total 1 work vide Tender Publication No.777 Date: 18.06.2026. Last Date for submission of Tender is 06.07.2026 time 5.30 PM.
For more information about the tender, the information can be collected at the website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in or visit the office of the said Division during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Vijayapur
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/161/ಕೆಎಸ್.ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA - "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
WORKS DEPARTMENT
Bid Identification No.CCE NHC KJR - 03 / 2026-27
(E-mail address :- senhkeonjhar@gmail.com)
Letter No.969, dt.10.06.2026

1.	No of the work	:- 1 number Building work
2.	Estimated cost	:- Rs.168.95 Lakhs
3.	Class of Contractor	:- 'B' Class & 'A' Class
4.	Period of completion	:- 10 (Ten) Calendar Months
5.	Date and Time of availability of Bid document in the portal	:- 11.00 Hours of 20.06.2026 to 16 Hours of 04.07.2026.
6.	Last date / Time for receipt of bids	:- 16.00 Hours of 04.07.2026
7.	Date of opening of Bid from Portal	:- 11.30 Hours on 06.07.2026
8.	Name of the address of the Officer Inviting Bid	:- Chief Construction Engineer, N.H. Circle, Keonjhar

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "**https://tendersodisha.gov.in**"
Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer, N.H.Circle, Keonjhar.
34001/365/2627 OIPR-34001/34048/1/26-27/0001

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ಮಂಡ್ಯ
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08232–224027, ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: dho.mandya@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಸರಬ/01/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15.06.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1999 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ **2026–27** ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಒಳಗೊಂಡಂತೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಸಮುದಾಯ /ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳಿಗೆ **170** ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯ ಗ್ರೂಪ್ ಡಿ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. **(ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ: 1,99,00,000/– ಹಾಗೂ ಇಎಂಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ: 2,00,000/–)**
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಯಿಂದ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15.06.2026** ರಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಬಹುದು ಮತ್ತು ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ:15.07.2026 ಸಂಜೆ–5.00** ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು. ಇಎಂಡಿಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಿಂದ ಅಥವಾ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ.
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಮಂಡ್ಯ/ಕರಡಿ ಸಾಮಾ/217/2026–27

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ಯಾದಗಿರ.
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್, ವಿಭಾಗ,
ಎನ್.ವಿ.ಎಮ್. ಹೋಟೆಲ್ ಎದರುಗಡೆ, ಸ್ಟೇಷನ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ–585202.
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕಾಪಾಅ/ಪಂರಾಇಂ/ವಿಯಾ/ಕೆಕೆಆರ್‌ಡಿಬಿ&ರಾಗ್ರಾಸ್ವಅಯೋ/2026–27/ 517 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18.06.2026

ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ) KW-1, 2 & 3
(ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

1) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ.:(1) ಸುರಪುರ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಮಾಲಗತ್ತಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ. RDPR/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT26371/CALL-2 Other (2) ಶಹಾಪೂರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಶಿರವಾಳ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ. RDPR/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT26515/CALL-2 SC Bidders Only (3)ಹುಣಸಗಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಜಂಗಿನಗಡ್ಡಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಅಂಗನವಾಡಿ–02 ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ. RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK _INDENT 25129CALL-2 Other (4) ಸುರುಪುರ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಗೌಡಗೇರಾ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಪ್ರೌಢ ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ಕಂಪೌಂಡ್ ಗೋಡೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ. (UDISE Code: 29330806702) RDPR/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT27410Other **2) ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ:** 2025–26ನೇ ಕೆ.ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಡಿ.ಬಿ. ಯೋಜನೆ ಮತ್ತು ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಸ್ವರಾಜ್ ಅಭಿಯಾನ ಯೋಜನೆ **3) ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ:** ಕನಿಷ್ಠ 9.00 ಮತ್ತು ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ರೂ. 65.00 ಲಕ್ಷ **4) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ದರ್ಜೆ:** 4ನೇ ಮತ್ತು 3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು **5) ಟೆಂಡರ ಫಾರಂ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:**20.06.2026 ರಿಂದ 01.07.2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ **6) ಟೆಂಡರ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಬೆಲೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ:** ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದಂತೆ (ಅರ್ಜಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಹಿಂದಿರುಗಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲಾ) **7) ಟೆಂಡರ ಫಾರಂ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 01.07.2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ **8) ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡ್ (ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ– 3):** 03.07.2026 ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗೆ 9:00 ನಂತರ **9) ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡ್ (ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ– 1 & 2):** 03.07.2026 ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗೆ 9.00 ನಂತರ **10) ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡ್ (ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ– 3):**10.07.2026 ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗೆ 11:00 ನಂತರ **11) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ವಿಳಾಸ (ಕಛೇರಿ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ):** ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಎನ್.ವಿ.ಎಮ್. ಹೋಟೆಲ್ ಎದರುಗಡೆ, ಸ್ಟೇಷನ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ–585202 **12) ಅಂತರಜಾಲ ತಾಣದ ವಿಳಾಸ:** https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

ಸೂಚನೆ :– ಟೆಂಡರರಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂದಿಸಿದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು (ರಜಾದಿನಗಳು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ).

ಸಹಿ/– **ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,**
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರ.
ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಯಾದಗಿರಿ/117/ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಸಿ&ಎ/2026–27

CHHATTISGARH HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Paryawas Bhavan, Sector- 19, North Block, Nava Raipur Atal Nagar- 492002

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Dated:

For sustainable growth of the urban areas, Government of Chhattisgarh has approved various Redevelopment Projects in the prime locations of the cities / towns via Public Private Partnership mode. On behalf of GoCG, CGHIDB Invites proposal for Selection of Developer for Redevelopment of land parcels at five (5) different locations on license basis.

Details of the Project

Sr. No.	NIT No.	Name of the Project & Land Area	Offset Price (in Cr.)	EMD (in Lakhs)	Cost of RFP Document (in Lakhs)
1	AHC (R) NIT No. 16 Dt. 16.06.26	Redevelopment of land parcel(s) of total area 1.81 acres Opposite to BTI Ground, Raipur	56.30	28.15	1.18 (With GST)
2	AHC (NR) NIT No. 25 Dt. 16.06.26	Redevelopment of land parcel(s) of total area 5.19 acres at Clubpara, Mahasamund	40.31	20.15	1.18 (With GST)
3	AHC (Durg) NIT No. 8 Dt. 16.06.26	Redevelopment of land parcel(s) of total area 5.0 acres at Kailash Nagar, Rajnandgaon	115.01	57.50	1.18 (With GST)
4	AHC (JDP) NIT No.07 Dt. 16.06.26	Redevelopment of land parcel(s) of total area 0.65 acres at Chandani Chowk (Phase II), Jagdalpur	15.95	8.00	1.18 (With GST)
5	AHC (BSP) NIT No. 114 Dt. 16.06.26	Redevelopment of land parcel(s) of total area 6.49 acres at Katghora, Korba	22.74	11.40	1.18 (With GST)

- Bid start date : From 10:30 AM on 22/06/2026
- Pre-bid meeting schedule- 12:00 Noon, 2nd July-26 at Sector-19, Paryawas Bhawan, CGHIDB (HO), Nava Raipur Atal Nagar.
- Due date for online submission of Bids (Both Technical and Financial):up to 5:30 PM on Date: 22/07/2026
- Due date for hard copy submission: up to 5:30 PM on Date : 24/07/2026.
- Bid Opening Date: 27/07/2026, 11:00 AM onwards
- For more information bidders may contact to Dy. Housing Commissioner, Head Office CGHIDB (94242-09032); EE Div-2 Raipur (94242-09041); EE Div. Mahasamund (76971-92220); EE Div. Rajnandgaon (98271-75003); EE Div. Jagdalpur (99932-33629); EE Div. Korba (99072-85405).
- Bidder may download the RFP documents and other terms and conditions from website https://cghb.gov.in & http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in. Any amendment / corrigendum in the tender documents, will only be uploaded on the e-Procurement website and shall not be published in any newspaper.

S-48196/5 **DHC(HO), CGHIDB, Nava Raipur Atal Nagar**

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Agencies for the following works.

Office of The Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.

Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender / EMD (In Rs.)	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
West-4	BWSSB/EE(W-4)/TO/PB/323/2026-27 Date: 18.06.2026 (Call-2)	Rs. 90,33,846/- / Rs. 1,80,700/-	29.06.2026 upto 3.00 PM	01.07.2026 after 3.00 PM

Sd/- Executive Engineer (West-4)

Office of The Chief Engineer (North), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.

North-2	BWSSB/2026-27/WS/WORK_INDENT3356	Rs. 13,15,259/- / Rs. 33,000/-	25.06.2026 upto 4.00 PM	29.06.2026 at 4.00 PM

Sd/- Executive Engineer (North-2)

The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.
DIPR/CP/1235/NR/2026-27

Lopsided solution

In India, regulatory oversight for pharmaceuticals needs to improve

As part of an overarching attempt to restore confidence in India's pharmaceutical supply chain after a series of deaths damaged the country's reputation as a drug exporter, the government has required a doctor's prescription for individuals to purchase syrup-based medicines. However, while it seems like a credible measure, it is also defensive rather than reformist. The Union Health Ministry has removed the term "syrup" from Schedule K of the Drugs Rules 1945, a change it had signalled when it issued the draft notification in December 2025, thus requiring cough syrups to be sold only with a prescription, through licensed pharmacies. These products were singled out after ethylene glycol (EG) and diethylene glycol (DEG) contamination in India-made cough syrups killed over 300 children across several countries since 2022. The WHO's warnings in 2022 and 2023 also undermined assumptions that India's export quality controls were effective and functioning independently. But beyond contamination, doctors have long raised concerns about how cough syrups are formulated and used. Many over-the-counter (OTC) cough syrups are 'cocktails' of bronchodilators, antihistamines, and decongestants, which can cause tremors and heart palpitations, extreme sedation or paradoxical agitation in infants, and blood pressure effects. The American Academy of Pediatrics has said that cough suppressants are quite ineffective for children under six years and may even be dangerous, as they can mask underlying conditions such as pneumonia or asthma. Yet, India's entrenched OTC culture makes pharmacists de facto primary care providers in many rural and semi-urban areas.

Most importantly, however, the contamination was the result of failures in manufacturing quality control, testing of raw materials, and regulatory oversight rather than consumer access. Even now, requiring a prescription may reduce inappropriate use and push patients away from self-medication, but it could never prevent contaminated products from reaching the market in the first place. The fundamental issue is that the government continues to tolerate the pharmaceutical lobby's argument that high-end testing requirements – for stronger quality control and ultimately better drugs – will bankrupt smaller manufacturers. Second, while the *Indian Pharmacopoeia* and the *Pharmacopoeia Internationalis* updated their analytical methods to detect EG/DEG following the deaths, failures in batch testing and enforcement persist. As a result, while India has around three dozen State drug controllers, they are chronically understaffed – so without a large increase in the inspectorate, the notification is likely to be ignored sans consequence in rural areas. In a globalised economy, subpar enforcement for medicines in even one country is dangerous; that is infinitely more so in a country aspiring to remain the world's pharmacy.

Essential upgrades

The updates to India's statistical system are welcome, albeit long overdue

The government has, in recent months, implemented several long-overdue but welcome upgrades to India's statistical databases. Wide-ranging, they cover the way the country measures Gross Domestic Product (GDP), industrial production, and price changes at the retail, wholesale, and producer levels. These updates have not only made India's key economic statistics more representative of reality, but have also brought them in line with international best practices. The most basic change across all indices has been the updating of base years. Until recently, the base years for GDP, the Consumer Price Index (CPI), Wholesale Price Index (WPI), and Index of Industrial Production (IIP) were either 2011 or 2012. As such, these measures were significantly outdated and less reflective of reality with each passing year. In February, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the new series of national accounts data, including GDP, with a base year of 2022-23. The new series incorporates methodological improvements and new data sources, making it more granular and robust. Some of these, such as the double-deflator approach, have long been demanded by statisticians and international bodies, including the IMF.

Similarly, MoSPI had in February also released the new series of the CPI with an updated base year of 2024, a more inclusive basket of items measured, and more accurate weightages. This has enabled a more realistic reading of retail inflation, a key metric in interest-rate decisions. In early June, MoSPI then released the new series of the IIP as well. The base year was updated to 2022-23 and the index's data collection was strengthened. This, too, eventually feeds into more accurate GDP data. The other factor to be highlighted is that the data upgrades have not been limited to just MoSPI. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry also updated its WPI, releasing the new series on Monday. A more accurate WPI and CPI yield a more accurate GDP deflator, which strengthens the way that statisticians derive real GDP growth after having adjusted for inflation. The Commerce Ministry also released a new Producer Price Index (PPI), which is to replace the WPI in five years. A PPI is the standard among developed economies and provides more information about both goods and service price levels at the producer stage. With all these, the IMF is sure to improve the recurring 'C' grade it has given India's national accounts data. These, it is hoped, will also be capped off by a time-bound release of the new Census with no further delays.

NFHS-6 reveals progress amid nutrition challenges

Soumya Swaminathan

Chairperson, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, and Principal Adviser to the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme, Government of India

Rama Narayanan

Senior Research Fellow at the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation

The recently released National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-6 report presents a mixed progress card for India, offering reasons to cheer while also sending clear signals to pause and reflect. On the bright side, stunting levels (for children under five), which indicate long periods of sub-optimal food intake with other deprivations, have declined from 35.5% to 29.3%. Though a modest decline, any gain is welcome given the complexity of the task that involves strengthening women's access to knowledge and resources, improved water and sanitation, and ensuring access to healthy affordable diets. Wasting levels that indicate whether children have adequate weight for their height, show no change, except for severe forms of wasting. The pattern across indicators makes one thing clear: gains in child nutrition are due to better health-care access, immunisation coverage, maternal education and improvements in housing, water and sanitation, while feeding practices and access to quality diets remain weak and continue to limit progress.

Institutional births have reached 90%, with public health facilities accounting for 58% of births; 91% of deliveries were attended by skilled medical personnel and 95% of mothers were visited at least once by health personnel during the antenatal period.

Equally gratifying is vaccination coverage for children – 87% of children between 12 and 23 months of age are now fully vaccinated. Since private facilities account for only about 3% of vaccinations, the high coverage reflects the strong outreach efforts of frontline workers – Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA), Anganwadi workers (AWW), and Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANM). These national averages hide regional disparities, but access to health services has improved across States.

Poor feeding practices

Despite the high rate of institutional births, only about 50% of newborns are breastfed within the first hour of life, indicating that the health system must intensify efforts to support early initiation of breastfeeding. About 60% of children between the ages of six to eight months, receive solid/semi-solid food, while only 15% between six to 23 months receive an adequate diet. Improving the timely initiation of complementary feeding and ensuring that all children receive an adequate diet are key to reducing undernutrition. In India, complementary feeding is closely linked to the annaprasana ritual, typically performed between six and 12 months – any delay will result in growth faltering.

Better health care alone cannot overcome India's nutrition challenges

A growing and under-explored determinant of child nutrition in India is maternal time poverty. Women perform multiple roles within and outside the home. NFHS-6 reports that about 30% of women engaged in paid work during the past 12 months, but this significantly underestimates their overall work burden. A large proportion of women in informal economies engage in unpaid family labour, in farming/fisheries, livestock care, and domestic chores. There are no clear estimates of the percentage of young mothers with children between six-23 months who are in the work force and there is very little documentation on how women manage child feeding with their other work roles. In many rural areas, in the absence of crèches, women leave their infants and young children with older family members or the child's older sibling (usually a girl), impacting both breastfeeding and complementary feeding, when they are out in the fields.

The processed food trap

Recent consumer expenditure survey results show that households are spending less on cereals and more on dairy, processed foods and beverages, with the latter two forming a large part of the expenditure. This creates an impression of diversity which is not the same as nutritional adequacy. A nutritionally adequate diet would have to follow the ICMR-National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) food-based dietary guidelines. Unfortunately, for a sizeable section of the population, a nutritious diet consisting of pulses, millets, fruits and vegetables, animal foods and nuts is unaffordable. Processed foods, in contrast, are easily available, ready to eat and packaged in affordable packs.

The first 1,000 days – from pregnancy to a child's second birthday – form the most critical window for healthy physical and cognitive development (most brain growth occurs in the first five years). We need disaggregated data for the 0-2 age group, currently unavailable, as stunting typically peaks during the second year of life and growth faltering often begins much earlier. The Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment (POSHAN) Abhiyaan programme currently focuses on identification and rehabilitation of severely malnourished children. Prevention of growth faltering must receive greater priority. Early identification of stagnation in weight or length, with timely counselling and support to mothers, is central to prevention.

Empowering frontline nutrition workers

Monthly anthropometric data for young children is collected by AWWs. Strengthening their skills in data collection would improve data quality. The huge volume of collected data should be analysed locally and feedback provided to the ASHAs and AWWs for timely action.

For this task, recruitment of a nutritionist and a data analyst at the district level is needed. Where possible, digital tools can be used to supplement in person counselling, by providing both workers and mothers practical information on how, when and what to feed young children at different ages, based on locally available healthy foods.

Behaviour change communication efforts should be culturally grounded, integrating practices such as annaprasana to reinforce timely and appropriate complementary feeding. Joint capacity building of AWWs, ASHAs, and ANMs in assessing feeding practices and advising families with effective communication materials on improving diets using locally available, affordable foods would enhance the quality of counselling and reduce the risk of undernutrition.

Multisectoral convergence is critical to addressing child malnutrition, yet it remains weak. Child nutrition should be a standing agenda item in Gram Sabha and Panchayat discussions. Local planning must prioritise improvements in Anganwadi infrastructure, safe drinking water, and sanitation facilities, as these foundational services directly influence child growth and health.

Engaging men in childcare, promoting shared domestic responsibilities, and strengthening support to mothers can significantly enhance feeding and caregiving behaviours. Many non-governmental organisations in India have developed crèche models that combine childcare, nutrition and early learning, and can be run by trained local women. From a gender perspective, crèches are not only child development interventions; they are social infrastructure that enables women's economic participation and reduces unpaid care burdens. With coordinated action across sectors and communities, meaningful and sustained progress in child nutrition is entirely achievable.

The real barriers to trade are no longer tariffs

Anuj Gupta

Managing Director of BowerGroupAsia

Recently, the CEO of a large multinational called to ask whether the upcoming visit of the United States Trade Representative to India could result in tariff rates returning to around 18% or settling at a different level.

Such conversations reflect the extent to which trade negotiations are often viewed through the prism of headline tariff numbers. Yet, in practice, tariff rates are only one part of the picture. The more significant determinants of market access and competitiveness frequently lie elsewhere. This presents an opportunity for India to move beyond a narrow focus on tariff bargaining and instead address the broader set of factors that shape trade outcomes.

When India and the U.S. issued a joint statement in February 2026 agreeing on a framework for an interim trade agreement, the headlines highlighted the obvious: the tariff numbers. The U.S. reciprocal rate cut to 18%. India's pledge to move toward zero duties on American goods. The "$500 billion" purchase commitment. But the White House fact sheet buried the more consequential admission – that both sides needed to negotiate the removal of non-tariff barriers. The U.S. deploys its own formidable non-tariff barriers arsenal while India has its quality regulations. The tariff headline was the press release. The NTBs on both sides are the actual problem.

For decades, trade diplomacy revolved around tariffs. Governments negotiated reductions in import duties, and success in trade talks was measured in percentage points shaved off customs rates. In today's hyper-regulated global economy, tariffs barely matter. The real obstacles are faced in the laboratory and the law offices through NTBs.

NTBs are the regulations, certifications, licensing rules, and product requirements that goods must meet before entering a market. They include technical regulations, environmental rules, health and safety requirements, packaging standards and testing procedures. Unlike tariffs, which are transparent and easy to measure, these regulatory hurdles operate within the system and exert a far-reaching influence on trade.

NTBs, the quiet trade weapon

Since the establishment of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 1995, average tariff rates among its members have fallen by nearly half, yet governments have not abandoned protectionism. As tariffs declined, NTBs surged. Today, they affect around 90% of global trade – a sixfold increase over the past three decades.

Tariffs dominate the headlines, but regulations increasingly determine trade outcomes

The regulatory landscape has expanded just as rapidly. More than half of the 20,000 global product and safety regulations introduced over the past 70 years have emerged since 2000, creating a dense web of overlapping rules that complicates cross-border commerce and raises compliance costs, particularly for smaller exporters. The WTO itself reflects this shift. In 2025 alone, governments submitted over 7,700 notifications of NTBs and health-related trade measures, 10 times more than in 1995.

Among major economies, the European Union (EU) is the most extensive user of these regulatory tools. According to the World Trade Organization and World Bank data, non-tariff measures cover roughly about 94% of imports entering the EU, compared with about 77% in the U.S. and nearly 45% in India. Each major economy deploys these barriers differently. The EU has built the world's most expansive regulatory architecture for trade, with NTBs concentrated in environmental rules, chemical safety regulations, product standards, packaging requirements and climate-related policies such as the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism and the EU Deforestation Regulation. These rules are justified as protections, often acting as powerful filters on trade.

The American NTBs are driven by strategic competition, security concerns and technological dominance. Export controls, entity lists and restrictions on semiconductors, AI chips and advanced computing hardware increasingly limit rivals' access to critical technology supply chains. India has traditionally relied more on tariffs, but this is changing. As part of its industrial strategy, New Delhi is expanding quality regulations on imports of electronics, machinery and chemicals to boost domestic manufacturing and reduce dependence on external supply chains.

The Indian experience

India's own FTA record makes the point sharply. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-India agreement has been in force since 2010, yet preferential tariff utilisation among Indian businesses remains below 50%, largely because non-tariff barriers (NTBs) make claiming these benefits commercially impractical. Indonesian registration requirements restrict Indian pharmaceutical exports, while Thai customs procedures force gems and jewellery exporters to reroute shipments through Hong Kong. Tariffs have fallen, but trade barriers remain.

Japan and South Korea tell a similar story. Despite an FTA with Japan since 2011, Indian pharmaceutical exports remain negligible because market approvals can take five to seven years and Japan has resisted recognising international testing standards. With South Korea, bilateral trade reached $27 billion in 2024-25, but India accounted for only $6.5 billion. Overall, India's FTA utilisation rate is about 25%, compared with 70%-80% for developed economies. The agreements existed on paper; the barriers remained in practice.

The next frontier of trade

This does not mean abandoning legitimate environmental or consumer protections, but regulatory systems must be transparent and proportionate. Otherwise, they risk fragmenting global markets at precisely the moment when supply chains are being re-organised.

India's newer agreements signal a genuine shift. The United Arab Emirates Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement explicitly mandates automatic recognition of medicines approved by major global regulators, and requires mutual acceptance of laboratory testing that eliminates duplicate compliance costs. The India-European Free Trade Association Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement, in force since October 2025, goes further with mutual recognition of standards, streamlined conformity assessment, and a dedicated sub-committee mandated to address NTBs on an ongoing basis. For the first time, NTB reduction is a legally binding obligation.

The politics of trade still talks about tariffs. The economics of trade has already moved on. In the 21st century, the real barriers are regulatory. If the West wants a serious economic pivot to the east, addressing those barriers will matter far more than cutting tariffs ever did.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

American ambiguity

The United States appears to be sending mixed signals once again — downplaying India's global importance while simultaneously praising the Indian Prime Minister. The killing of three Indian sailors in the Gulf and reports of the Pentagon dropping "Indo" from the Pacific command name have further fuelled questions about the reliability of U.S. commitments. India must always maintain a contingency plan and be prepared for any eventuality should American policy shift unexpectedly.

It is also important to seek clarity on what exactly is meant by the statement that the "U.S. will help India under Prime Minister Modi's leadership if it comes under attack".

Govardhana Myneedu,
Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh

Wildlife management

Animal welfare groups have objected to the culling of wild boars, especially in parts of Kerala. However, they must also recognise the extensive damage these animals cause to crops and the risks they pose to human life. Many of those opposing the measure may not have experienced these challenges first hand, particularly in areas where human-wildlife conflict is acute.

Rather than imposing a blanket policy of indiscriminate culling, authorities should prioritise intervention in regions where the problem is most severe. At the same time, the growing populations of predators such as tigers and leopards require careful management to prevent escalating conflicts with humans.

Animal welfare groups and experts must strike a balance between conservation goals and the legitimate concerns of affected communities. Ultimately, protecting human lives and livelihoods must remain a central consideration in wildlife management policies.

J.K. John,
Thrissur, Kerala

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Is India producing more graduates than what the economy can absorb?

PARLEY

Rajan Wadhera

Former President, Automotive Sector, Mahindra & Mahindra

O. R. S. Rao

Chancellor, ICFAI University, Sikkim

India is witnessing an unprecedented expansion in higher education. Over the past decade, thousands of new colleges and universities have been established, producing millions of graduates every year. Yet unemployment of the educated remains a growing concern. Nearly one in three graduates are unemployed. Is India producing more graduates than what the economy can absorb? Rajan Wadhera and O.R.S. Rao discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **M. Kalyanaraman**. Edited excerpts:

Is India producing more graduates than the economy can absorb?

O.R.S. Rao: The numbers point to a widening gap between the growth in graduates and the growth in jobs. In engineering alone, the number of graduates has risen sharply over the past few years while job creation has not kept pace. Earlier, the IT services sector was the principal employer of engineering graduates. Today, hiring by IT services firms has slowed considerably, even though sectors such as banking and financial services, manufacturing, defence and space technologies have expanded their recruitment. The challenge is that these new opportunities have not grown fast enough to absorb the increasing number of graduates entering the labour market.

A second issue is the nature of investment. Much of the recent investment in sectors such as semiconductors, advanced manufacturing and technology has been capital-intensive rather than labour-intensive. As a result, large investments do not necessarily translate into proportionate job creation.

Has AI made the problem worse?

ORSR: We are in the middle of a major technological transition. AI is changing the nature of work much faster than how educational institutions can adapt. Companies now want graduates who can work with AI systems, validate AI-generated outputs, understand responsible and ethical AI use, and solve complex problems using technology. Four years ago, when many of today's graduates entered college, these skills were not widely discussed. Universities cannot redesign programmes overnight, and students cannot acquire entirely new competencies instantly.

As a result, many graduates are entering a labour market that demands skills different from those they were trained for.

Is employability more important than just job creation?

Rajan Wadhera: There is certainly a growing concern about employability, particularly among engineering graduates. The problem is often a mismatch between what is taught and what the industry requires. Students may graduate with strong academic credentials but have limited exposure to laboratories, manufacturing environments, teamwork and real-world problem-solving. When they enter the industry, employers frequently find that they need substantial additional training in order to contribute effectively. Companies run their own training programmes to bridge this gap. This was far less common a few decades ago.

Keeping up: Candidates who came for a mega job fair at the Government Engineering College in Thrissur in 2025. NAJEEB K.K.

Has manufacturing failed to create enough opportunities?

RW: Manufacturing still has considerable potential, but it too is undergoing profound change. People often focus on the impact of AI on software jobs, but manufacturing is also being transformed by automation, robotics, and Industry 4.0 systems. Historically, a large number of engineers were employed in supervisory and operational roles on factory floors. Today, many of those functions are automated. Digital manufacturing systems require fewer people to oversee production processes. As a result, the number of engineering jobs generated by manufacturing is not increasing at the pace many people expected. Even as factories expand output, they often require fewer workers and supervisors than before.

Does that mean the future is one of permanent jobless growth?

RW: I would not go that far. India's push towards self-reliance in sectors such as defence,

> Students may graduate with strong academic credentials but have limited exposure to laboratories, manufacturing environments, teamwork and real-world problem-solving
> **RAJAN WADHERA**

aerospace and advanced manufacturing is creating new opportunities. There is increasing emphasis on domestic design and product development, and that is encouraging. The challenge is that automation and digitalisation are reducing labour requirements even as industries grow. Therefore, employment growth may not automatically match economic growth. This makes it even more important for educational institutions and industry to work together. Curricula needs to be aligned much more closely with industry requirements.

Has India focused too much on manufacturing and too little on innovation?

ORSR: Over many years, India became increasingly proficient at manufacturing products designed elsewhere; manufacturing alone does not create enough opportunities for highly trained engineers. The real value lies in research, development and design. Countries that control intellectual property and technology create far more opportunities for engineers than countries that simply manufacture products. Recent global developments have reinforced this lesson. Increasing restrictions on access to critical technologies such as semiconductors and strategic components have shown that excessive dependence on external technologies carries risks. India therefore needs to invest much more aggressively in indigenous research, innovation and product development.

Has India made progress in indigenous design capabilities?

RW: It would be incorrect to say that India remains only a manufacturing base. Over the last decade, companies such as Mahindra and Tata Motors have developed significant design and engineering capabilities. Indian engineers today are designing vehicles, platforms, transmissions and other complex systems that would previously have been developed elsewhere. The issue is not whether these capabilities exist. The issue is scale. The number of high-quality engineering graduates being produced is larger than the number of advanced R&D and design roles currently available.

What role should entrepreneurship play?

ORSR: Neither government nor industry can create enough jobs for every graduate. We need more graduates to become creators of enterprises rather than only seekers of employment. One major challenge is access to risk capital. Traditional lenders prefer established businesses and proven revenue streams. Innovation, however, requires investors willing to support ideas at an early stage. India's startup ecosystem has made significant progress, but much more needs to be done to support deep-technology ventures.

What should India focus on in the AI era?

ORSR: India should focus not only on infrastructure but also on products. There is a significant need for sovereign AI as nations with those systems seek to restrict access. Product companies create intellectual property, innovation and high-value employment. The goal should be to develop products not only for India but for global markets. We should identify strategic areas where India can become a global leader. UPI's success demonstrates that India is capable of building world-class digital platforms.

What needs to change in higher education?

ORSR: Industry-academia collaboration must become much deeper. Universities cannot design relevant programmes without industry participation, and industry cannot expect job-ready graduates without contributing to curriculum, internships and skill development.

Looking ahead, what are the priorities?

ORSR: Three priorities stand out. First, India must significantly increase investment in research and development. Second, industry and academia must work together much more closely. Third, we need a stronger entrepreneurship ecosystem that encourages innovation and supports risk-taking.

RW: I would add that India must continue building indigenous capabilities in design, engineering and advanced manufacturing. The opportunities are real, particularly in sectors such as defence and aerospace. The challenge is ensuring that education, industry and policy move in the same direction.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

Free media cannot be free

Mainstream media needs subscription-model based revenue in order to remain as a credible source of information

Varghese K. George

The horizontal flow of information across peers on Social Media (SM) is turning out to be more impactful than its vertical flow from a source of authority to the mass audience, as it happens through Mainstream Media (MSM). SM has on the one side democratised information and held authorities accountable, but on the other hand it has created an information anarchy that generates social and political chaos. This crisis, and state attempts to manage it, is evident in the ban on the Telegram app. Public awareness about the NEET question paper leak and issues related to the evaluation of CBSE answer sheets – and reactions to them – were largely shaped by social media. Some students who were directly affected figured out and explained the issues much better than MSM; but in parallel, tons of misinformation also got circulated, creating panic.

This information crisis is evident to all, but nobody has figured a way out of it. Among the critical responses to the situation must be a restoration of the professionalism and independence of MSM, which is impossible without a robust business model. The present crisis is that the public berates MSM but trusts SM forwards from any source – free rubbish. MSM has to recreate itself in such a manner that the public not only trusts it, but also pays for the information and analysis that it provides. And people who lament the fall of MSM must commit to pay for news, and put their money where their mouth is.

MSM platforms and journalists have been trying to imitate SM in creating polemics and polarising content in order to beat it. They no longer seek to fulfil the traditional role of being an independent mediator of information for the public good; instead, they seek to profit from the prejudice and ignorance of the public, which is anyway being inflamed by SM. In this manner, SM and MSM are both contributing to the chaos. Nearly all MSM media houses are seeking to imitate business models built around reels, personality cults, tantalising clickbait, algorithmically driven advertisement models, and also by piggybacking on Big Tech, which is controlling technology and capital at an unprecedented rate. All this will only hasten the decline of MSM.

What appears to be a good sign for MSM is an apparent, though only partial, realisation across political, business and state actors that MSM has a critical role to play in social stability and good governance. While the practice of bypassing MSM to avoid scrutiny will certainly continue, managing governance requires a trusted MSM. During Operation Sindoor this fact was evident, when channels behaved like SM trolls and created a diplomatic embarrassment for the country. The current controversies around exams could have been better managed if there had been proper communication between the government and the public. Before SM, the practice of beat reporting ensured that authorities would explain their plans and set out what students, teachers and other stakeholders should expect when a policy was rolled out. The deliberate weakening of such communication between the government and the public may help avoid accountability, but it also creates governance crises.

This is hence an opportunity for MSM to reimagine itself. What it needs is a business model in which the user pays – that is both a market imperative and a democratic one. Instead of playing defence against SM and Big Tech – which have already decimated conventional advertisement-driven media – and seeking crumbs from the very forces that are destroying it, MSM must assert its role, function and value, both in terms of social impact and money.

Consumers should be paying for news, for news to remain credible. Those who consume free information are paying a huge price for it in terms of social and political impact – and in many cases at a personal level too. For instance, those who adopt quick health fixes obtained from SM can end up in serious medical situations. Media is, and can only be, free when the user is paying for it.

varghese.g@thehindu.co.in

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Under a cloud

Looming presence: People walk along the Marine Drive as dark monsoon clouds gather overhead in Kochi on June 17. However, with the southwest monsoon stalled over southern Maharashtra, India has had a nationwide rainfall deficit of 41% between June 4 and June 18, according to the latest India Meteorological Department data. H.VIBHU

FROM THE ARCHIVES The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 19, 1976

Gold ore shoots found near KGF

Bangalore, June 18: Some gold ore shoots in the neighbourhood of the Kolar Gold Fields in Karnataka have been located by both the Geological Survey of India and the Bharat Gold Mines Limited.

The GSI has been exploring the area for nearly three years and it has now located an ore shoot of 200 metres strike length at a depth of about 150 metres. Further exploration underground in the 25th level (1,600 feet below the surface) showed indications over a strike length of one kilometre.

This find has aroused hopes of locating some ore shoots which are likely to extend the life of the KGF mines, the Union Deputy Minister for Steel and Mines, Mr. Sukhdev Prasad told a press conference.

The Bharat Gold Mines (BGML), in the course of surface exploration, has found a similar ore shoot in the nearby Bisanattam area in Karnataka. It is hoped that further exploration may result in the location of ore shoots which may ultimately lead to the opening of a new mine.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 19, 1926

South Indian epigraphy

The annual report on South Indian Epigraphy for last year, which has been published, although not remarkable for any outstanding discoveries or contributions to our knowledge of ancient history has still much information that should be of great interest to the general reader as well as to the student of Indian history. It is a hopeful sign that the department should have woke up to the destructive vandalism that has been the cause of the loss of many invaluable records in temples and other places of worship.

From Page One

Telegram evolved into 'new dark web': govt.

However, the company failed to take any meaningful action, he said.

Senior advocate Dhruv Mehta, appearing for Telegram, said the government had failed to justify the use of emergency powers and had not demonstrated why specific content could not be blocked, instead of disabling access to the entire platform.

"The order says it is in the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India. An examination like NEET will affect the sovereignty and integrity of India?" he asked.

A Bench of Justice Tejas Kataria scrutinised the government's justification for a platform-wide restriction, even as it acknowledged concerns about exam malpractice and cybercrime. "How can we stop the rights of 150 million people just because one set of citizens are appearing in examinations?" he said while hearing submissions from both sides.

The judgment has been reserved for Friday.

The Centre's affidavit also details how Telegram is allegedly used by cyber threat actors to coordinate attacks, distribute malware, and facilitate financial crime. It is alleged that Telegram channels host marketplaces for rented and mule bank accounts used in money laundering and cyber fraud. Such channels enable criminals to exchange information on bank accounts, UPI handles, and cryptocurrency conversion mechanisms while, due to the interface, it remains difficult for the police to track them because new channels emerge continuously.

"The entire population of a channel, around a lakh, can be moved to another channel in seconds. This is unique to Telegram and poses a serious risk," the Solicitor General said.

To support its claims, the Centre pointed to a sharp rise in cybercrime complaints linked to Telegram. Data placed before the court show that complaints on the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal involving Telegram increased from 75,688 in 2023 to 2.75 lakh in 2025, with reported fraud amounts crossing ₹3,000 crore in 2025. In 2026, by May, over 88,000 such complaints had already been recorded.

"In Telegram, one account can create 40 bots. In WhatsApp it's one bot per user," Mr. Mehta said, citing an I4C report. The platform operates through the cloud infrastructure and hence those who commit crime cannot be tracked, he said.

The Centre has also linked Telegram to the dissemination of extremist content. It told the court that channels associated with radical groups use the platform to circulate propaganda, misinformation, and material intended to destabilise public order. "When riots happened and Internet services remained suspended in an area where there are just 10% miscreants and the rest are common public, we cannot avoid such bans when law and order is concerned," Mr. Mehta said in response. Since Telegram has a feature that allows date and time to be edited, the app could be misused in a NEET exam, he said.

Trump, Pezeshkian sign accord to end war

"As a first step, the Islamic Republic of Iran will instantly reopen the Strait of Hormuz and the U.S. will immediately lift the naval blockade," Mr. Sharif wrote. Under the text, Washington also commits to immediately waiving oil sanctions crippling Iran's economy.

And once a final agreement is reached on the Islamic Republic's nuclear programme, the U.S. will also facilitate the release of a $300 billion reconstruction fund supported by regional nations, the deal says.

The agreement had earlier been slated for signatures by Iran's chief negotiator and parliament speaker, Mohammad-Bagher Ghalibaf, and U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance. Iran said an in-person ceremony was no longer needed. But Mr. Sharif said an official ceremony will take place on Friday in Switzerland and technical talks will commence.

Tech vendor blames manual oversight for CBSE OSM row

Coempt rules out software glitch, says 95% of over 4 lakh students given access to their answer sheets; it admits security breach but says ethical hacker gained entry to 'server used for testing'

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

Protests were held all over the country over the controversy around the CBSE's on-screen marking platform. K.V.S. GIRI

Nearly a month after receiving complaints from students about glitches in the Central Board of Secondary Education's (CBSE) On-Screen Marking (OSM) platform, the Board's technology vendor, Hyderabad-based Coempt Edu Teck, said that "the matter has been traced to the physical scanning process rather than a software glitch".

Among the primary issues that drew public attention was an incident in which a student reportedly received another candidate's answer sheet. "We have identified the location and the individual who conducted the scanning. We have verified, technologically, there is no error in this case... Preliminary findings point squarely toward manual oversight," the company said.

The company said that despite isolated bottlenecks, answer sheets have been successfully delivered to nearly 95% of the students who sought access. On May 26, CBSE had stated that 4,04,319 students had requested 11,31,961 answer sheets.

The Board has not responded to the query of whether 95% (3,84,103) students have received the answer sheets, and what is the status of the requests made by the remaining 20,216 students.

Blurred images

Many Class 12 students had complained that the scanned copies of their answer sheets were hazy. Addressing concerns regarding blurred images and illegible handwriting, Coempt said these cases are being "systematically reviewed".

The company denied allegations that tender conditions were altered to accommodate substandard hardware. "The scanners used by Coempt are standard, industry-grade models utilised across the sector. We upgrade our hardware year-on-year, and the scanning resolution is perfect," it said.

After a 19-year-old ethical hacker claimed to have accessed parts of Coempt's platform, the company's security protocols also came under scanner. The company acknowledged the breach but provided a technical clarification. "He managed to hack a server used for testing, which is never used for any client. It's used for internal purposes, with dummy tests and has public access... Coempt verified that no student data or technical infrastructure was compromised and operational systems remain entirely secure," it said.

With regard to the resurgence of discussion around the 2019 Telangana Intermediate examination controversy, Coempt pointed to official judicial findings.

"The Supreme Court of India (had) noted at the time that out of 3.8 lakh failed candidates, only 1,183 were found to have passed upon review, representing a marginal evaluation variance of just 0.16%. Consequently, the apex court rejected pleas seeking mass re-evaluation, student compensation and criminal charges against the technology provider," the company said.

Coempt said it currently serves over 35 universities and institutions across India, processing nearly two crore answer booklets annually through services such as digitisation, on-screen marking, AI-assisted evaluation and question-paper management. Through direct communications with universities, public clarifications and references to official records, the company said that its operations, compliance standards and service delivery remain fully intact.

"The company's recent outreach to institutions aims to provide stakeholders with clear facts and context surrounding answer sheet accessibility, image quality, data security and its historical track record," Coempt said.

Ensure integrity, be vigilant: Pradhan to officials on NEET

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

Dharmendra Pradhan

Union Minister of Education Dharmendra Pradhan on Thursday chaired a high-level review meeting of senior officials and functionaries of the Ministry of Education, State Governments, National Testing Agency (NTA) and Higher Education Institutions to assess the preparedness of the NEET UG re-examination scheduled to be conducted on June 21.

Sanjay Kumar, Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy; Vineet Joshi, Secretary, Department of Higher Education, and Abhishek Singh, Director General, NTA, also attended the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, Mr. Pradhan emphasised the importance of maintaining the highest standards of integrity, transparency and efficiency in the examination process and directed all authorities concerned to remain vigilant. He urged the officials to ensure that necessary measures were in place for the free and fair conduct of the re-examination.

Emphasising the importance of coordination at all levels, the Minister said that officers designated by the Ministry would reach all the States to coordinate the activities pertaining to the re-examination process and would report to the Command Centre headed by the DG, NTA. He asked the designated nodal officers of the State governments to ensure that students were provided all necessary facilities to enable them to appear for the re-examination in a stress-free environment.

Providing facilities

Mr. Kumar said the students must be put at absolute ease to appear for the exam, by giving them all necessary facilities, including provision of seating arrangements before the exam and drinking water.

Mr. Joshi remarked that the time leading up to the re-examination was crucial and stressed the need for proactive coordination, timely dissemination of instructions and strict compliance with all prescribed protocols. Mr. Singh said the NTA was working with all stakeholders to ensure that the re-examination was conducted smoothly.

Telegram challenge once again puts spotlight on Section 69A of IT Act

NEWS ANALYSIS

Rizmi Lia M.
CHENNAI

Telegram has approached the Delhi HC challenging the ban, which is set to last till June 22.

The Centre's move to block Telegram has once again drawn attention to Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, a provision that gives the government the power to direct intermediaries to block access to online information under specified circumstances.

The temporary ban on the platform, which was initially misused for the medical entrance examination paper leak and misinformation campaigns, was aimed at curbing another paper leak during the NEET-UG retest. Telegram has approached the Delhi High Court challenging the ban, which is set to last till June 22, and the judgment has been reserved.

Section 69A of the IT Act authorises the Union government to block public access to any information via any computer resource, including applications and websites, if it is satisfied that such blocking is necessary "in the interest of India's sovereignty and integrity, defence of India, security of the state, friendly relations with foreign states, public order, or for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence".

But the restriction may interfere with Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution, which protects freedom of speech and expression. Therefore, the orders under Section 69A must be issued with the procedural safeguards established by the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking Access to Information by the Public) Rules, 2009.

In *Anuradha Bhasin v Union of India*, the Supreme Court examined the validity of the indefinite blanket ban on internet services in the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir, and the court held that freedom of speech and expression, as well as freedom to practice any profession or carry on any trade, business, or occupation over the internet, are protected by Articles 19(1)(a) and 19(1)(g). The court also concluded that orders restricting internet access must meet the proportionality test: they must be required, use the least restrictive measures available, and be open to judicial review.

Article 19(1)(g) provides the right to practice any profession or to engage in any occupation, trade, or business. A ban on a platform that has about 150 million users in India will disrupt many creators, educators, and entrepreneurs running broadcast groups, and prevent them from maintaining communication with their subscribers. It thus limits one's ability to earn a living.

Section 79 of the IT Act also establishes intermediary safe harbour provision, which means platforms are not liable for third-party content if they exercise due diligence, follow the Information Technology Rules, 2021, and act quickly upon receiving knowledge of illegal content.

Person in video not Punjab CM: AAP on Mann sacrilege row

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Thursday said forensic tests by two independent laboratories have found no match between Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and the person in the alleged sacrilege video, surrounding which the Akal Takht recently issued an edict against him, even as the Opposition flayed the AAP, daring him to undergo a lie detector test.

Senior AAP leader and Minister Harpal Singh Cheema said, "For several days, Akali Dal leaders had been attempting to inflame public emotions by circulating a fake video and falsely linking it to CM Bhagwant Mann."

Mr. Cheema said, "Two independent laboratories recognised by the Government of India thoroughly examined the viral video and arrived at the same conclusion. The forensic analysis examined a total of 1,191 frames from the video. The reports clearly conclude that the person shown in the video does not match CM Bhagwant Mann."

Hitting out at the AAP, Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal dared Mr. Mann to undergo a lie detection test. "...the video was referred to two forensic labs in the country. The labs found the video to be authentic. Now, he has gone back on that public admission and claims that the person in the video is not him. When found totally exposed, he has manipulated two fake lab reports within two days," he said.

He said that a 'Dharam Yudh Morcha' would be started from the Akal Takht on July 19 to remove Mr. Mann as Chief Minister.

Amit Shah meets Gor, holds talks on measures against terrorism, narcotics

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Home Minister Amit Shah during a meeting with Ambassador Sergio Gor in New Delhi on Thursday. PTI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah met U.S. Ambassador to India Sergio Gor at his residence in Delhi on Thursday. The discussion centred around strengthening cooperation between the two countries on counterterrorism and counter-narcotics.

Mr. Gor is the third U.S Ambassador to have met Mr. Shah since he assumed charge as Home Minister for the first time in 2019. Mr. Shah had earlier met U.S. Ambassador Kenneth Juster in 2019 and Ambassador Eric Garcetti in 2023.

The meeting assumes significance as Mr. Shah rarely meets foreign delegates and Ministers, and it comes a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi met U.S President Donald Trump in France during the G7 summit.

Mr. Shah last visited a foreign country in 2006 when, as Gujarat's Minister of Home, he led a delegation to Germany.

Mr. Gor was the first to announce the meeting on X. "Had an excellent meeting with Honorable Home Minister @AmitShah. We had a fruitful discussion on enhancing collaboration to combat terrorism, shield our people from narcotics and illicit drugs, secure our borders, and jointly bring criminals to justice in both nations," he wrote.

Mr. Shah followed with a post of his own, saying, "Under the leadership of PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji, India is firmly committed to advancing the India-U.S. Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership and ensuring that the people of both nations benefit from the bilateral relationship."

Certain elements want to keep Manipur burning: CM Yumnam

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh said certain elements were working against his government's efforts to restore peace and normality in the State.

Addressing a programme in Imphal West district's Singjamei, his Assembly constituency, on Wednesday, he said the continuing violence has affected developmental projects. "There have been several incidents of unrest after I became the Chief Minister. The focus on maintaining law and order has made it hard for us to focus on development," he said.

'Have a duty'

He, however, said the law and order situation could not be an excuse for not pushing developmental projects. "We cannot run away from our duties."

The Chief Minister recalled his visits to conflict-hit areas and meetings with people of all three major communities – Kuki, Meitei, and Naga – across the State to appeal for peace and reconciliation. "I believe there are some people who do not want peace in our land," he said.

Ex-MD of Reliance ADA Group in judicial custody

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Thursday sent former managing director of the Reliance Anil Ambani Group, Sateesh Seth, to 14 days in judicial custody in a money laundering case linked to hawala money transfer. The ED arrested him in a case arising out of allegations that funds were siphoned abroad through hawala channels with fictitious bills against allegedly overvalued diamond imports.

APPEAL

Baby Shreyanshree, Manipal Hospital No.MH018462724, 07 months has been diagnosed to be Suffering from Congenital Heart Diseases, large Muscular VSD occupying half of IVS, additional Swiss chess Muscular Septum, Smalleish LVOT, Severe PAH. She requires to undergo PA banding through Midline Sternotomy. The Estimated cost of the Surgery is Rs.4,50,000/-.

Please send donation however small by Cheque/D.D/M.O Fav. **Save Poor Lives** A/c Shreyanshree, **Our A/c Details:** S/B A/c No. 20000913487. S.B.I. R.A.Puram, IFSC CODE:SBIN0001855. Please Donate by G-pay No.9884607377, UPI Id: savepoorlives@oksbi. Donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

SAVE POOR LIVES, Flat No. A1, Ceebros Garden, Door No.14/76, Kamarajar Salai, Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai-600028. Ph. No. 044 42044165 / 9884607377. Email: savepoorlives@gmail.com. Our website: www.savepoorlives.com

Amid rumours of split, Sena (UBT) issues showcause notices to 6 MPs

The six members, who failed to attend a parliamentary board meeting, were given seven days to respond; one of the MPs, Omraje Nimbalkar, still undecided; rebels to meet Shiv Sena chief Eknath Shinde on June 21; NCP (SP) legislator slams govt.

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

Political drama: Sanjay Raut, left, and Arvind Sawant at a press conference in New Delhi on Thursday. PTI

The Shiv Sena (UBT) on Thursday issued a showcause notice to six of its Lok Sabha members for failing to attend a parliamentary board meeting, amid rumours that the party is heading for its second split in four years.

"They have been given seven days to respond to the notice. We will take a call after we see their response," said party loyalist MP Arvind Sawant. He said the rebel MPs deserved disciplinary action for not following the party whip and attending the meeting.

"If the entire process is followed properly, these MPs will be disqualified. This fight will happen in Parliament, in the court, and on the streets as well. You will see the repercussions in Maharashtra. That is why the security of the *gaddar* [traitor] MPs has been increased," said Sanjay Raut, the party's sole member in the Rajya Sabha.

NCP (SP) legislator Rohit Pawar slammed the State government, claiming that Y+ security had been provided to all the six rebel MPs. Mr. Raut claimed that the dissident MPs had been moved to a location in Rajasthan.

However, *The Hindu* has confirmed that at least two of the MPs are still in Maharashtra, and sources close to one of the six MPs told *The Hindu* that he had not yet taken a decision on joining the rebellion.

Sources indicated that the rebel MPs will meet Eknath Shinde, who heads the Shiv Sena, on June 21. Denying speculation that the six MPs were likely to join the Shiv Sena on its 60th Foundation Day programme in Mumbai on June 19, leaders said that some issues were still being addressed.

'No decision yet'

Rumours of a split in the Shiv Sena (UBT), the second in four years, have been doing the rounds in Maharashtra for the past two days. Six MPs – Sanjay Dina Patil, Sanjay Jadhav, Sanjay Deshmukh, Nagesh Patil Ashtikar, Bhausaheb Wakchaure, and Omraje Nimbalkar – have reportedly rebelled against Uddhav Thackeray's party, but the six have refused to make their position clear. Though they failed to attend a party meeting at Parliament on Thursday, they have not yet declared their next steps or stated whether they are forming a separate group.

One of the MPs, Omraje Nimbalkar, is stationed in Pune. Sources close to him told *The Hindu* that he has not yet taken a decision about leaving the party, adding that he will take a call only on June 20, after a special CBI court in Mumbai pronounces its judgment in a 2006 murder case in which the MP's late father, the Congress leader Pawanraje Nimbalkar, was the victim.

The case, which has seen a trial lasting 15 years, involves allegations of a contract killing conspiracy against former Nationalist Congress Party MP Padamsinh Patil, the victim's cousin.

Another of the dissident MPs, Sanjay Dina Patil, is in Mumbai.

BJP leader Girish Mahajan mocked the Shiv Sena (UBT) for its lack of strength to create a stir in the State. In response, Mr. Raut challenged him to enter the fray without any police bandobast, and without the alleged support of Central agencies.

BJP-backed candidate wins Jharkhand RS polls after RJD, CPI(ML) cross-voting

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Independent candidate Parimal Nathwani (second from right) after winning the Rajya Sabha polls on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A BJP-backed Independent candidate, Parimal Nathwani, on Thursday won one of the two Rajya Sabha seats in Jharkhand, defeating Pranav Jha of the Congress. Baidyanath Ram of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha won the other seat.

Sources said Mr. Nathwani, a Gujarat-based businessman, won the election after the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation legislators cross-voted. Mr. Ram got 30 votes, Mr. Nathawani got 28 votes, and Mr. Jha only managed to get 20 votes. Three votes were declared invalid in the 81-member Jharkhand Assembly.

The ruling INDIA bloc has 56 MLAs, including 34 legislators from the JMM, 16 from the Congress, four from the RJD, and two from the CPI(ML) Liberation.

The Opposition alliance in the State has a total of 24 legislators, comprising 21 MLAs from the BJP and one each from the All Jharkhand Students Union (AJSU), Janata Dal (United), and Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas). Additionally, the House has one Independent legislator – Jairam Mahto of the Jharkhand Loktantrik Krantikari Morcha.

The RJD cross-voting was in reaction to the Congress's actions during the Bihar Rajya Sabha election on March 16, a source said. When elections for the five Rajya Sabha seats were held in Patna, RJD candidate Amrendra Dhari Singh lost after three Congress MLAs did not turn up to vote. Due to this, even the NDA's fifth candidate secured a victory. The Congress has six MLAs in Bihar.

"Tejashwi Yadav*ji* has taken revenge... Even the Left parties followed us because the RJD is the one that gives them proper respect, not the Congress party," said a senior RJD leader on condition of anonymity.

Reacting to his victory, Mr. Nathwani, who has represented Jharkhand twice in the Rajya Sabha, posted a message on social media platform X. "Deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve the fourth term as a Member of Rajya Sabha. This moment is filled with profound emotion as this will be my third term from Jharkhand, the very soil from where my Parliamentary journey began in 2008. It is a matter of immense pride and humility to return once again to my *karmabhoomi*."

He has also represented the YSR Congress Party in the Upper House.

Ram Temple needs CEO, says Misra; backs U.P. govt. action in donation row

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Nripendra Misra

As allegations of financial irregularities linked to donations received by the Ram Temple in Ayodhya have come under scrutiny, Ram Temple Construction Committee chairman and former Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of India, Nripendra Misra, defended the Uttar Pradesh government's response on the matter.

He also called for a more professional management structure, including the appointment of a Chief Executive Officer (CEO), to oversee the temple's administration and transparency in use of donation.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Misra said the State government had acted promptly after concerns were raised by the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust.

"The Trust is an autonomous institution created under the Supreme Court judgment. When the Trust sought intervention, the government issued the necessary notification within hours and ordered an inquiry," he said.

He added that the Special Investigation Team (SIT) had been asked to submit both a preliminary and a final report, and if any evidence of financial wrongdoing emerged during the inquiry, the matter could proceed to the stage of lodging a first information report (FIR).

"Whatever the government of Uttar Pradesh had to do, they have done," he added. Mr. Misra, who in the past had said that becoming the chairman of the Ram Temple Construction Committee was divine intervention, termed the allegations of financial irregularity there "painful".

He added that any misuse of donations would damage public faith in the institution.

The next challenge

"If even a pie of devotees' contributions has gone to individuals, devotees will feel cheated," he said, sharing a rough estimate that had gone into the temple construction since 2019, which, according to him, is around ₹1,800 crore.

Using the controversy to underline what he sees as the next challenge before the Trust, which is strengthening governance after the completion of the temple's construction, Mr. Misra said there was a need to formalise the administrative structure, introduce stronger vigilance mechanisms, and establish clear operating procedures for the temple's expanding operations.

"I have said it before and I am repeating. A CEO should be appointed. He can be serving or retired officer. I will suggest, someone who has prior work experience in Uttar Pradesh," Mr. Misra said, praising the management model of the Tirumala Venkateswara Temple.

"I am not saying you bring the Act. But large religious institutions increasingly require professional administrators capable of handling complex operations, infrastructure, and pilgrim services.

He also argued for greater transparency in the handling of donations and expenditure.

"The temple requires the highest level of integrity," Mr. Misra said, adding that contributions should be accounted for openly and expenditure records made available for public scrutiny.

"Every pie should be transparently accounted for. Let people see it."

HC refuses to stay Speaker's move in Trinamool dispute

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Ritabrata Banerjee

The Calcutta High Court on Thursday refused to stay West Bengal Assembly Speaker Rathindra Bose's decision recognising rebel Trinamool Congress MLA Ritabrata Banerjee as the Leader of the Opposition instead of Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay, who was nominated for the post by the party leadership.

"The court did not find any *prima facie* case and balance of convenience and inconvenience in favour of the petitioner for grant of interim order as prayed for by the petitioner, accordingly, interim order is refused," an order passed by Justice Krishna Rao said.

The court, however, called for affidavits from all parties to examine the larger question of whether the Speaker had acted within the ambit of his powers while recognising the Leader of the Opposition.

Justice Rao was hearing a petition filed by Mr. Chattopadhyay, whom Trinamool general secretary Abhishek Banerjee had nominated as the Leader of the Opposition.

The court noted the June 3 order through which the Speaker recognised Mr. Ritabrata Banerjee as Leader of the Opposition.

Justice Rao observed that the Speaker had conducted an inquiry and found that the resolution submitted by Mr. Abhishek Banerjee was under dispute with regard to the signatures appearing on it.

The court also noted that the notice expelling Mr. Ritabrata Banerjee and Sandipan Saha was also under challenge.

The order came on the day the Budget Session of the Assembly commenced with an Address by Governor R.N. Ravi. The MLAs backing Mr. Ritabrata described the order as a moral victory.

M.P. HC lifts interim stay on Abhishek's arrest warrant

Press Trust of India
JABALPUR

The Madhya Pradesh High Court has lifted the interim stay on an arrest warrant issued against Trinamool Congress MP Abhishek Banerjee in a defamation case. The decision is likely to increase legal troubles for the Trinamool general secretary, who is already facing a probe by the ED on corruption charges.

Former Indore MLA Akash Vijayvargiya filed the suit against Mr. Banerjee in the MP-MLA court in Bhopal in 2021.

The suit alleged that Mr. Banerjee called Mr. Vijayvargiya a "goon" while addressing a rally in Kolkata in November 2020.

PM holds discussions with French firms on investments in India

Press Trust of India
PARIS

Narendra Modi with Rodolphe Saadé in Paris on Thursday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday met leading business executives here and held discussions on investment opportunities and expansion plans in India.

Discussions with CEOs of French companies focused on strengthening cooperation across sectors ranging from shipping and logistics to railways, construction and artificial intelligence, according to the External Affairs Ministry.

Mr. Modi participated in the G7 Summit over the past two days and held talks with several world leaders, including U.S. President Donald Trump.

Among those who met the Prime Minister in Paris was Rodolphe Saade, chairman and CEO of CMA CGM, for discussions focusing on maritime shipping, logistics and global supply chains. Mr. Saade said India has a "major role to play in the supply chains of the world".

CBI questions former Trinamool MLA over R.G. Kar case again

Senjuti Sengupta
KOLKATA

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Thursday questioned Nirmal Ghosh, the former Trinamool Congress MLA from Panihati, in connection with the rape and murder of a resident doctor at the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata in August 2024.

This comes after the victim's mother, Ratna Debnath, now a BJP MLA, moved a city court on May 13 seeking the arrest of Mr. Ghosh, Trinamool councillor Sanjib Mukhopadhyay, and party functionary Somnath Das.

Officials said Mr. Ghosh was questioned over allegations made by the victim's family that he and his associates had attempted to hasten the cremation of the doctor's body to prevent a second autopsy. The family has also alleged that the cremation was carried out without necessary documents being handed over to them. Reacting to the development, Ms. Debnath said her "hope for justice" had been revived.

In September 2024, Mr. Ghosh was questioned by the CBI over the same allegations after a doctor who was part of the victim's autopsy team claimed that one of Mr. Ghosh's associates had identified himself as the victim's uncle and directed the cremation be expedited.

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
Mangalagiri, Guntur District
Andhra Pradesh -522503

[Ref. Advt. F.No./AIIMS/MG/Admin/Recruitment/03/2026/Non Faculty/Deputation/02 dtd. 16.06.2026]

Advertisement for Recruitment of various Non-Faculty Group "A & B" Posts on Deputation Basis at AIIMS, Mangalagiri

AIIMS Mangalagiri invites Online applications from eligible candidates for 09 **Group A & B posts** (Medical Superintendent-01, Superintending Engineer-01, Registrar-01, Assistant Controller of Examinations - 01, Administrative Officer – 01, Assistant Administrative Officer -01, Assistant Accounts Officer -02, Librarian Grade-I – 01) **on Deputation Basis.** The closing date of applications will be 45 days from the date of publication of advertisement in Employment News. For more details, please visit website **www.aiimsmangalagiri.edu.in**.

Sd/-
Executive Director
AIIMS, Mangalagiri

RAMAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE
Bengaluru – 560080

CORRIGENDUM
Advt. No.16/2026 dt. 04.06.2026

The last date for submission of online applications with reference to Advertisement **No.16/2026 dt. 04.06.2026** for administrative posts is extended till **13 July 2026, 11:59 pm.**

Sd/-
Administrative Officer

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Senior Assistant Director
of Horticulture, Bommanahalli Zone-2, Bangalore-560068.

No:BSCC(BOM)TENDER/PR/02/2026-27 Date: 18.06.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Through GOK KPPP only) (Two Cover System)
website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture Bommanahalli Zone, (Referred to as Employer in these documents) invites tenders to Implement in accordance with KTPP rules 2000, from eligible and experienced Person/Agencies / Firms (Referred to as Tenderers in these documents) registered in Labour Department for Landscape Development of Parks.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work/Category
1.	Landscape Development Works and other Civil Works including of Borewell and facility in Bommanahalli Zone Parks **(Others). Estimate Cost (₹ in Lakhs) 200.00, EMD Amount in ₹: 3,00,000/-.**

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender can be downloaded from : **19.06.2026, (2)** Pre bid meeting : **20.06.2026 at 11:30 a.m. (3)** Tender Closing Date: **25.06.2026 at 4:00 p.m. (4)** Technical bid opening date: **29.06.2026 at 4:30 p.m. (5)** Financial bid opening date : **After Approval of Technical Bid.**

Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, Bommanahalli Zone, BSCC.

CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
6th, 7th, & 8th Floor, Tower-B, World Trade Centre, Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi-110029

Petition No. 213/TD/2026 Dated: 17.6.2026

NOTICE UNDER CLAUSE (a) OF SUB-SECTION (5) OF SECTION 15 OF THE ELECTRICITY ACT, 2003 (the Act)

An application for the grant of a Category-V licence for inter-State trading in electricity all over India has been made before the Commission by **Oasis Greenway Power Trading Private Limited,** Tower No. 10, 8th Floor, Flat No 805, Emerald Isle L&T Gate No.7, Saki Vihar Road, Powai Andheri East Mumbai- 400072.

2. A copy of the application, along with its annexures and enclosures, made by the applicant for the grant of an inter-State trading licence to **Oasis Greenway Power Trading Private Limited** before the Commission can be accessed at the website **https://oasisgreenway.com/** or inspected by any person in the Commission's office by following the laid down procedure.

3. On consideration of the material available on record, the Commission is satisfied that prima facie the applicant qualifies for the grant of a licence for inter-State trading in electricity and by order dated 17.6.2026, the Commission has proposed to grant a Category-V licence to the applicant for inter-State trading in electricity all over India.

4. Notice is hereby given in pursuance of clause (a) of sub-section (5) of Section 15 of the Act to invite suggestions or objections, if any, to the proposal to grant the licence for inter-State trading in electricity as aforesaid by the Commission to be received by the undersigned latest by **4.7.2026** at the above noted address. The objections or suggestions received after the specified date shall not be considered.

5. The Commission has fixed the application for final disposal on **7.7.2026** and the person who files the suggestions or objections may in his discretion attend the hearing, for which no TA/DA shall be paid by the Commission.

Sd/-
(Harpreet Singh Pruthi)
Secretary

INBRIEF

PM to release ₹18,880 crore for farmers tomorrow

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release the 23rd instalment of the PM-KISAN scheme on Saturday from Tarakeswar, West Bengal. Over 9.44 crore eligible farmers will receive ₹2,000 each, and ₹18,880 crore will be transferred directly into beneficiary accounts. "Over 2.18 crore women farmers will receive the benefit," the Union Agriculture Ministry said in a release. Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said in a separate statement that in West Bengal more than 45.35 lakh farmers will receive ₹907 crore. Mr. Modi will also launch the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana/Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme.

Assam NHM confirms seven Japanese encephalitis deaths

Seven people have died of Japanese encephalitis (JE) in Assam since the beginning of the year, while 32 others have died of acute encephalitis syndrome (AES), as of June 17, the State unit of the National Health Mission (NHM) said in a statement on Thursday. Almost 62% of all JE deaths in India since 2018 have been in Assam, according to national data, and outbreaks usually occur between May and October, peaking in July and August. Noting that the two distinct conditions are not interchangeable, Assam NHM executive director Abhijit Sarma clarified that JE is one cause of acute encephalitis syndrome (AES), but not all AES cases are of JE.

CBI arrests IAS official over alleged diversion of ₹79.46 cr.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested an IAS official over the alleged diversion of ₹79.46 crore from the Panchkula Municipal Corporation in Haryana. The agency identified the accused as Sri Ram Kumar Singh, who was serving as the Commissioner at the time. The funds were diverted from the Corporation's account at the Chandigarh branch of the IDFC First Bank. As part of the alleged conspiracy, Mr. Singh allegedly handed the bankers multiple signed cheques through middlemen under the guise of opening fixed deposits. The CBI had earlier arrested a senior accountant of the Municipal Corporation in the same case.

Direct tax mop-up grows over 14% to over ₹5.21 lakh crore

Net direct tax collection grew 14.64% to over ₹5.21 lakh crore till June 17 this fiscal year on higher advance tax mop-up from corporates, government data showed on Thursday. Net corporate tax collection rose 22% to ₹2.08 lakh crore, and mop-up from net non-corporate tax (NCT), which includes taxes paid by individuals, HUFs, firms, grew 8% to about ₹2.94 lakh crore. Mop-up from Securities Transaction Tax grew 45% to ₹18,856 crore. Advance Tax collection grew 15.30%. On a gross basis, direct tax collection increased 12.46% to over ₹6.10 lakh crore. This includes corporate tax of over ₹2.76 lakh crore and NCT of about ₹3.15 lakh crore. PTI

Bengal moves SC against release of blast convict

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

The West Bengal government on Thursday approached the Supreme Court challenging a Delhi High Court order directing the release of Rashid Khan, who is serving a life sentence in the 1993 Bowbazar blast case that left 69 people dead in Kolkata.

Counsel representing the State sought urgent listing of the matter before a Bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice V. Mohana, contending that the case involved a "very serious offence" and should be heard on Monday. He also pointed out that the June 5 judgment of the High Court had erred in directing Khan's premature release despite the State Sentence Review Board (SSRB) having repeatedly declined his requests for remission.

The Chief Justice sought to know the period of incarceration already undergone by Khan. Counsel for the State submitted that he had spent nearly 30 years in prison. The Chief Justice thereafter agreed to consider the State's request for listing the matter.

45 rescue teams deployed for Amarnath pilgrimage

The specialised mountain rescue teams have been strategically positioned to provide rapid response in the event of accidents, adverse weather conditions, or other emergencies during yatra

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Against the backdrop of the terror attack in 2025 in Pahalgam, which is on the main yatra route, and in the wake of militants shifting to jungle warfare in Kashmir, 45 specialised mountain rescue teams will be deployed at 21 locations along the arduous twin routes of the Amarnath Yatra this year.

"These teams are equipped with enhanced rescue and emergency response resources. They are tasked with assisting pilgrims, and responding to contingencies during the pilgrimage," Nalin Prabhat, Director-General of Police (DGP), Jammu and Kashmir, who flagged the teams off, said.

"The specialised teams have been strategically positioned to provide rapid response in the event of accidents, adverse weather conditions, or other emergencies during the annual yatra," the DGP said of the first such initiative, with highly trained personnel manning the yatra routes.

Jammu and Kashmir DGP Nalin Prabhat, along with senior police officers, flags off the mountain rescue teams for the annual Amarnath Yatra, at the SDRF headquarters in Srinagar on Thursday. ANI

The Amarnath Yatra is scheduled to begin on July 3. Mr. Prabhat highlighted the "interoperability and coordinated deployment" among the different security agencies tasked with providing security cover during the pilgrimage.

Natural disasters

Mr. Prabhat also highlighted the dangers posed by cloudbursts and landslides in mountainous areas. "These mountain rescue teams play a crucial role during emergencies," he said.

"These special teams are highly trained in the high-altitude rescue operations, special rope techniques, avalanche awareness, and disaster management," Abdul Gani Mir, DGP, State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), said. "The level of preparedness was visible during the Gulmarg rescue operation. The presence of these personnel will add to the sense of security for pilgrims," Mr. Mir said, referring to the rescue of 300 tourists by the SDRF after the Gulmarg gondola broke down in May.

The "security and protection of pilgrims remain the first priority", Mr. Mir told the teams, adding, "The yatra is not merely a pilgrimage but symbolises the devotion and faith of hundreds of devotees who trek arduous trails and severe weather conditions to reach the cave shrine."

The special teams were inducted at a time when Pahalgam witnessed a terror attack in April 2025, which left 26 dead.

Govt. ratifies 8.25% EPF interest rate for FY26

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The government has ratified 8.25% rate of interest on employees' provident fund (EPF) deposits for the financial year 2025-26, which is likely to be credited to over seven crore contributing members this month.

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) provides the rate of interest on EPF after it gets ratified by the government through the Finance Ministry. The Finance Ministry has given its concurrence to the 8.25% rate of interest fixed by the Central Board of Trustees (CBT), the apex decision making body of the EPFO, a source said on Thursday.

On March 2, the CBT, in a meeting chaired by the Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, had decided to fix 8.25% rate of interest for FY 2025-26, marking the third consecutive year this rate has been maintained.

Under the new ecosystem developed by the EPFO, the interest on the EPF would be credited into subscribers' accounts immediately, the source said.

SC seeks response from Centre, BCI on advocates' registry

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

Nearly a month after the Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant expressed concern over the growing number of lawyers with dubious degrees, the Supreme Court on Thursday sought responses from the Centre, the Bar Council of India (BCI), State Bar Councils, and the University Grants Commission on a plea seeking the creation of an "authoritative national database" of enrolled advocates and a code of conduct governing lawyers' use of digital platforms.

The petition, filed by the Bar Association of India, said these "structural crises" in the governance of the legal profession have previously been acknowledged by the top court and the BCI. A Bench comprising Chief Justice Kant and Justice V. Mohana described the proposals as "innovative", but observed that any exercise to create a comprehensive national database would require the participation of law universities.

Appearing for the bar body, advocate Prashant Kumar suggested placing on record a supplementary policy paper outlining how the proposed measures could be implemented.

Mr. Kumar drew the court's attention to the increasing instances of lawyers using social media in a manner that amounts to solicitation, in violation of the BCI Rules.

The Chief Justice remarked that genuine members of the Bar are generally mindful of professional ethics and conduct themselves responsibly, but acknowledged that "nasty comments" are frequently made by persons claiming to be lawyers.

He said the remedy lay in mentoring young legal professionals and helping them find their footing.

DGCA calls for safety review of uncontrolled airstrips

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has called for an immediate review of the operational conditions at uncontrolled airstrips across the country.

Expressing concern over accidents at such airstrips in the recent past due to inadequate safety standards for aircraft operations, the DGCA said several uncontrolled airstrips were being utilised for the landing and departure of aircraft. "It is also noted with concern that, in the past, certain accidents and incidents have occurred at and in the vicinity of such airstrips, highlighting the critical importance of maintaining adequate safety standards for aircraft operations," the aviation regulator said in a safety advisory issued to owners and operators of uncontrolled airstrips.

Official sources said runways that did not have a functional Air Traffic Control tower were categorised as uncontrolled airstrips.

In January, a plane carrying Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar had crashed at an uncontrolled airfield.

The tragic accident in which Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra Ajit Pawar and four others were killed on January 28, 2026, occurred at Baramati, which is an uncontrolled airfield. The aircraft involved in the accident was a Learjet 45, owned by M/s VSR Ventures Pvt Ltd.

Under the provisions of Section 4 of the Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR), the DGCA prescribes the minimum safety requirements to be complied with by operators of airstrips used for aircraft operations.

"It has come to the notice of DGCA that a number of such airstrips are not being maintained in accordance with the prescribed standards, thereby adversely affecting the safety of flight operations," the advisory said.

Periodic inspections

Consequently, all such airport and airstrip operators were advised to undertake an immediate review of the operational conditions of their facilities and ensure strict compliance. The operators were advised to carry out periodic inspections and maintenance of critical infrastructure, including runways, taxiways, aprons, visual aids, markings, drainage systems, boundary fencing, and access control arrangements. "Any deficiencies affecting operational safety should be rectified without delay," the DGCA said.

PM to hand over ₹2,400-cr. incentives to employees

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will disburse ₹2,400 crore worth incentives under the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana (PM-VBRY) here on Friday. Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya told presspersons here on Thursday that 15 lakh beneficiaries will receive the incentive as Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

He added that Mr. Modi will interact with a few first-time employees and employers benefiting under PM-VBRY. The total outlay for the scheme is ₹99,446 crore, and is targeted to create 3.5 crore jobs in two years. He said first-time employees will get benefits worth ₹15,000 and employers will receive up to ₹3,000 per month per new employee. The scheme is to boost employment in the manufacturing sector, he said.

TH CROSSWORD + 14824

(set by Dr. X)

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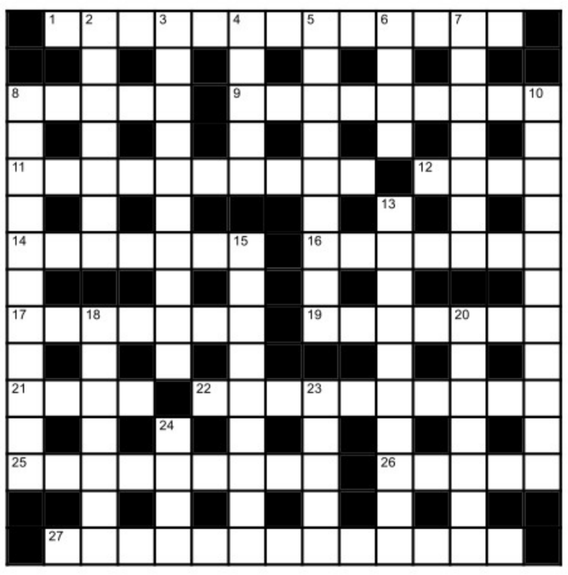
SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Start to secure line frantically, return to save new climber (7,6)
8 Daughter sent back substandard flag (5)
9 What happens when you're having fun in liaison, ensnaring married female with fibs (4,5)
11 Plainly enthralled by marijuana, stylish lady enters pool (5-5)
12 Write yarn about catching mythical creature (4)
14 Mental disability in males after a transient ischaemic attack (7)
16 Cockney thief's remarkable feat, stealing each jewel finally (3,4)
17 Trendy type embracing husband briefly (2,5)
19 Rescue Liberal arrested by brute (7)
21 One beginning to butcher old mountain goat (4)
22 How people at a funeral might be making a profit (2,3,5)
25 Be proud in enclosure after winning bronze medal at centre (5,4)
26 Polish male crushed by English goal (5)
27 Memorable times, say, dancing after wine with character on date (3-6,4)

Down

2 Connoisseur at opening tucking into exquisite frozen dessert (4-3)
3 Character helping to smuggle Ecstasy, say (10)
4 Praise leader of elected group, returning after winning vote (5)
5 Thinks about developing antiserum (9)
6 Unpleasant smell at home repulsed fellows (4)
7 Be taken aback by extremely elderly European's malevolent glare (4,3)
8 Immoral acts of perverse padre on six tapes (11)
10 Obstinate lass finally kissed after quarrel (5-6)
13 One's living in fear, having trouble with ultimately nasty Mob (5,5)
15 Case of abhorrent lodger throttling Dutch escort (9)
18 Discover hole around bottom of pipe resulting in leak (7)
20 Lady came out, dropping learner in school (7)
23 Handle a little hitch day before hosting fifty (5)
24 I perform with Latin superstar (4)

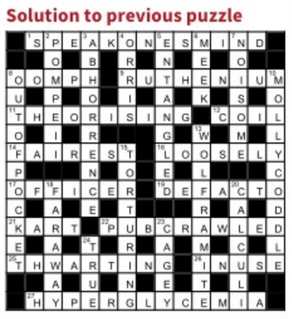
SUDOKU

7		4		8	6	3		1
		9					6	8
	8		9					
			1					2
8	3						5	6
4					7			
					4		1	
9	1					8		
5		7	8	2		6		9

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

No.SS6916 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	3	8	6	4	7	5	9	2
5	4	2	9	8	3	6	7	1
9	6	7	5	2	1	4	3	8
2	9	6	1	5	8	7	4	3
8	7	5	4	3	9	1	2	6
4	1	3	2	7	6	8	5	9
6	5	4	8	9	2	3	1	7
3	2	1	7	6	5	9	8	4
7	8	9	3	1	4	2	6	5

FAITH

Qualities of Vaishnavas

In Parasara Samhita, sage Parasara says a Vaishnava has certain external symbols. He wears a tulsi garland and a Nalinakshamala. His shoulders are decorated with symbols of the chakra and conch. His forehead is adorned with urdhva pundra. The white mark in this urdhva pundra is made by using white clay, which is found in sacred sites. Vaishnavas usually apply the urdhva pundra in 12 places on the body. It represents Lord Narayana's feet, elaborated M.A. Venkatakrishnan in a discourse.

When the symbol is applied in 12 different places, 12 names of the Lord such as Narayana, Madhava, Govinda are chanted. These external symbols are reminders that we must keep to the right path. But while the symbols are a means of imposing self-discipline, we must have certain qualities for us to identify ourselves as Vaishnavas. Foremost among these is sympathy for others. When asked how to identify a Vaishnava, Nanjeeyar replied, "Check if you are one. Introspect." When two Vaishnavas meet, they must fall at each other's feet, regardless of age, jnana or family background. Vishnu remains between them, and receives their pranams to each other. Two Vaishnavas who attended Manavala Mamunigal's discourses on Sri Vachana Bhushanam were always quarrelling with each other. On the way to the temple, Mamunigal noticed two street dogs fighting. He said to the two disciples, "Looking at the way they are fighting, I think these dogs plan to come to my Sri Vachana Bhushanam discourses." The two men were ashamed, for they knew that Mamunigal was indirectly telling them to stop fighting with each other. So, they fell at his feet and promised never to quarrel again.

A BG-BGE

INBRIEF

Tata Motors to raise CV prices from July by up to 2.5%

Tata Motors Ltd. on Thursday announced a price increase of up to 2.5% across its commercial vehicle range, effective July 1. "The price increase is being undertaken to partially offset the impact of rising commodity prices and other input costs," the company said in a statement. The price increase will vary depending on the model and variant, the company said. The current price range of Tata commercial vehicles is from ₹3.7 lakh to about ₹1.3 crore.

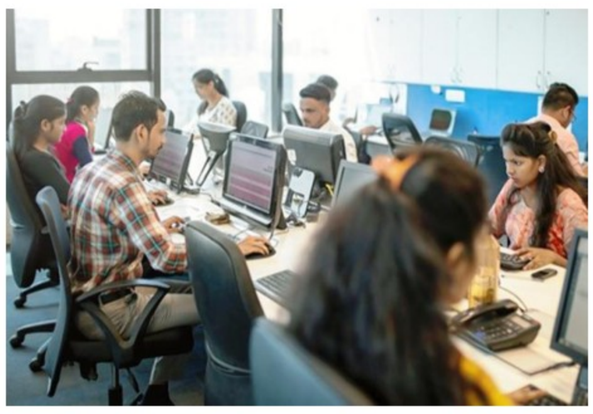
IRDAI forms working group on Artificial Intelligence

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has constituted a working group on Artificial Intelligence (AI) to set direction on governance frameworks, best practices and safeguards for the insurance sector to pursue innovation, around the emerging technology, while ensuring policyholder data protection. The seven-member working group, with IIIT Hyderabad Director Sandeep K. Shukla as Chairperson, will study AI's impact, including potential challenges and risks, and assess implications for insurers, policyholders and the insurance ecosystem. An assessment of the impact of frontier AI tools, prescribing a framework for implementing reasonable security controls to mitigate risks from AI driven automated attacks as well as examining need for sector-wide stress tests form part of the terms of reference. The working group will assess adoption, usage, maturity and deployment and existing level of AI governance in the insurance sector; and carry out structural assessment of the inventory of AI systems used by regulated entities. It is required to suggest an AI governance framework for ethical, transparent and explainable adoption of AI tools, including for claims and fraud preventions, IRDAI said.

Revised pact with U.K. could save $500 million for Indians

The agreement on social security, effective July 15, will save Indian firms and workers there about $500 million worth of social security payments they otherwise would have had to pay in the U.K.

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI



Shot in the arm: There are more than 900 Indian companies at present operational in the U.K., an official said. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

The agreement on social security that India and the U.K. have signed and that will come into force on July 15 will save Indian companies and workers there about $500 million worth of social security payments that they otherwise would have had to pay in the U.K., according to sources in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The original Agreement on Social Security, also referred to as the Double Contribution Convention (DCC), was signed in July 2025. It exempted companies in the U.K. from paying social security for the temporary Indian workers they employed for a period of three years, as long as they paid social security in India during that period.

On Wednesday, both governments announced that the DCC would come into effect on July 15 along with the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between India and the U.K.

As per the revised agreement, the social security exemption limit has now been increased to five years, which will cover about 90-95% of the Indian workers in the U.K. and stands to significantly reduce costs for Indian companies operating in the U.K. "We have more than 75,000 workers from India working in the U.K. and there are more than 900 Indian companies that are at present operational in the U.K.," a Commerce Ministry official explained on condition of anonymity since the matter is confidential until July 15.

"On the basis of their minimum salary levels, the savings to Indian companies in the U.K. employing temporary Indian workers will come to more than half a billion dollars," the official added.

Imbalances rectified

The issue that had arisen was that, in the absence of a DCC, companies employing Indian workers had to pay social security for these workers in India as well as in the U.K. Most of these workers were in the U.K. for up to a period of five years. However, the benefits from social security in the U.K. accrue only after 10 consecutive years of contribution.

"This meant that most of the Indian workers there were paying double social security, and also were not able to get any benefit from the U.K. social security system," the official added. "Now, with the exemption increased from three to five years, this covers about 90-95% of the temporary Indian workers in the U.K."

Companies will need to obtain a certificate from the Indian government confirming that social security was being paid here, which they can submit to the U.K. government in order to avail of the exemption.

The CETA was also signed in July last year and was supposed to be implemented by early May 2026.

However, a fresh U.K. regulation on steel import tariffs temporarily – which had not been part of the CETA negotiations – brought the trade deal proceedings to a halt as both countries scrambled to find a solution without having to redo the CETA itself.

"If you look at this steel measure in detail, 85% of our steel exports to the U.K. was out of this," a second official explained. "Out of about $890 million of steel export that we do to the U.K., only $137 million was getting affected."

"We have arrived at a deal on this steel measure, which has taken care of our concerns," they added. "It was finalised only yesterday afternoon [hours before the deal was announced]. India will not lose any market access, and will have a decent market access in the affected portions. We are satisfied with the overall deal. We are happy that our concerns on steel have been addressed."

The two officials would not reveal details of what concessions India has obtained regarding the steel tariffs as the matter was still extremely sensitive for the U.K., which was still negotiating with other countries on the matter.

However, they said that the leeway granted to India would be in the form of a mix of country-specific quotas, residual quotas and access under authorised-use schemes.

The details will be available on July 1, when the U.K.'s tariffs come into effect.

Decision on fuel price cuts will be in line with global situation: Govt.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The government is aware of the decline in crude oil prices, and an appropriate decision on the corresponding change in fuel prices would be taken in line with the evolving global situation, Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary at the Union Petroleum Ministry, told reporters at the bi-weekly inter-ministerial briefing on Thursday.

"Crude prices had [earlier] touched $120 per barrel and is now coming down," she said, adding, "The government is seized of the matter and appropriate decisions regarding retail prices would be taken in line with the evolving international situation." To queries about India continuing to purchase oil from Russia and Iran, the senior official maintained that "techno-commercial" viability and reliability of supply would be the governing factors for India's refineries for making purchases from any geography.

Brent crude futures had breached the $120 per barrel-mark on consecutive days towards the end of April. However, in the run-up to the peace deal between Iran and the U.S., which was signed early Thursday, oil prices touched their lowest level in more than 3months.

MSMEs hit by curbs on dispensing diesel

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) that consume 200 to 600 litres of high speed diesel (HSD) a day have been hit by the recently imposed procurement ceiling.

According to V. Rangaswamy, president of the Coimbatore District Small Industries Association (CODISSIA), MSMEs in the manufacturing, healthcare, commercial, and educational sectors do not have space or resources for bulk purchase and storage of HSD. Hence, they make daily or weekly purchases from the local authorised retail outlets.

The present procurement ceiling of 200 litres a day introduced through a notification issued on June 11 is inadequate even for a single day, he said.

The government should introduce higher procurement limit for verified institutional consumers and permit registered MSMEs, and other essential service providers to procure up to 600 litres per day upon submission of GST registration certificate, factory licence, or Udyam registration certificate, he added.

MoU opens door for Iran to stake claims in Strait of Hormuz

ANALYSIS

M. Kalyanaraman
CHENNAI

Choppy waters: The MoU does not address key aspects such as sequencing of ships leaving the Gulf, says Bimco's Larsen. REUTERS

The Iran-U.S. memorandum of understanding (MoU), as described by U.S. officials and media reports, contains two significant shipping-related provisions. While it promises relief from sanctions on Iranian oil sales, it also opens the possibility of Iran asserting a formal role in managing transit through the Strait of Hormuz and potentially charging fees for passage. Before the conflict, Iran did not exercise such a right, and merchant vessels transited the strait without mandatory tolls.

The agreement marked the beginning of a 30-day transition period during, which a few large commercial vessels and sanctioned tankers operated by the National Iranian Tanker Company have taken routes hugging the Iranian and Omani coasts to exit the strait, avoiding the traditional central shipping channel which previously handled about 130 vessel transits daily.

Under the MoU, the United States will lift its blockade during this period, while Iran will remove technical obstacles to navigation, including mines. Sanctions relief and U.S. Treasury waivers will allow Iran to resume oil exports.

Jakob Larsen, Chief Safety & Security Officer at Bimco, a body of global shipowners, said in a statement: "Iran and the U.S. have now agreed to permit transits through the Strait of Hormuz, but significant safety and security risks still persist. The central part of the Strait is mined and un-navigable, and only the inshore traffic zones close to Oman and Iran are reportedly free of mines. Due to the risk of congestion and navigational incidents in the inshore traffic zones we still consider it risky for ships to commence transits at this point and advise shipowners to continue doing thorough risk assessments and appeal to all parties to put the safety of seafarers first."

"The MoU also raises several questions and does not offer sufficient information regarding key aspects such as safe routes, measures to separate traffic, sequencing of ships leaving the Gulf, reporting procedures, ship security procedures, procedures for naval protection and emergency response," he said, adding Bimco expects an international coordination body to be established shortly to facilitate transits.

What Iran has achieved

The agreement provides for a 60-day period during which Iran will permit ships to pass through the Strait of Hormuz without tolls while negotiations continue on the nuclear issue. Notably, free passage is guaranteed only for this 60-day period.

Iran has previously indicated its intention to eventually collect service charges for transit. The MoU places the future management of ship passage through the Strait of Hormuz on the negotiating table, while recognizing Iran as a central stakeholder. "Iran has been handed the authority to conduct a dialogue with Oman and discussions with other Persian Gulf states regarding the management of the strait," said Phil Belcher, marine director of Intertanko, the global association of tanker owners.

Speaking at a Lloyd's List webinar, he warned that "the sole arbiter of what is happening in the strait is going to be Iran," noting that international shipping has long been guided by the principle of free and unfettered passage, including through territorial waters where the right of innocent passage is expected to apply.

The MoU further states that any future transit arrangements in the Strait of Hormuz will conform to applicable international laws. A key legal framework is the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), under which straits such as Hormuz should allow free transit passage not subject to tolls, although vessels enjoy transit rights rather than unrestricted high-seas navigation rights.

However, the legal picture is complicated. The United States has not ratified UNCLOS, while Iran has signed but not ratified the convention.

Some of the Persian Gulf nations have, in the past, vehemently opposed any toll. International shipping interests, including India, have also opposed tolls.

Shipping interests are concerned that any arrangement granting Iran a greater role could establish precedents for other strategic waterways, including the Malacca-Singapore Straits or even the English Channel which is only 22 miles at its narrowest point, which means it doesn't have a high seas passage running through. Shiv Halbe, chief executive of the Maritime Association of Shipowners, Shipmanagers and Agents (MASSA), says the issue is ultimately less about laws than what the global shipping industry considers commercially acceptable.

Although Iran had previously argued that tolls could help finance post-war reconstruction, the MoU provides for a separate, substantial reconstruction fund alongside renewed oil revenue. More consequential than any future fee structure is the formal recognition of Iran as a stakeholder in the Strait of Hormuz – an outcome consistent with Tehran's view of the strait as a strategic guarantor against future attacks.

Office of the Engineer-in-Chief PRAMC
PWD, Bangalore - 560001
No.EIC/PWD/10/PRAMC/2026-27/364 Dated: 18.06.2026
TENDER NOTIFICATION (through KPPP Portal only)
The Executive Engineer, PRAMC, KPWD on behalf of Governor of Karnataka, invites Short Term Tender for **One Building work** in Chamarajanagar District and **One Road Safety work** in Belagavi District. Further details can be obtained from KPP portal (www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from **18.06.2026, 05:30 PM Onwards.**
Sd/- **Executive Engineer**
PRAMC, KPWD, Bengaluru.
DIPR/CP/1221/SA/2026-27

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED
e-Procurement Tender Notice (Paper Notification)
TGSPDCL intends to float tender for procurement of (a) HT ERS Kits (b) LT ERS Kits (c) Disposal of 7.5 MVA PTR on e-procurement platform.
For further details of each item above, please visit www.tgsouthernpower.org, www.tender.telangana.gov.in, www.auction.telangana.gov.in.
Phone: 040-23431360, 1033, 1035, 1026
Sd/-
CHIEF ENGINEER (P&MM)
TGSPDCL, Hyderabad
DIPR R.O. No. : 233-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/2026-27, Date: 18-06-2026

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919
No: KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT 4269 Dated: 15.06.2026
ABSTRACT TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two cover system) (Through e-procurement portal only)
Item wise tenders are invited through e-procurement portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for the work of **"Periodical/ Routine monitoring/Maintenance/Breakdown/Emergency AOH/Servicing works of I & C OLA-1 Systems & equipments of Units 2 to 4 MRHS, DM Plant 1&2, CEMS, SPM & SOXNOX analyser for period of One year". EMD: Rs.81,931/-.** Last date & time for submission of bids: 29.06.2026 upto17:30 hrs. Further details can be had from office of the **Executive Engineer (I)OLA-1,** RTPS/KPCL, Shakthinagar-584170, Bellary Dist., Karnataka. **Mobile: 94808 30445.**

MAHATRANSCO Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.
E-TENDER NOTICE
MSETCL invites online bids (E-Tender) for following

S.N.	Tender No. & Description
1	**RFx. No. 7000040370;** Work of Supply, Civil and ETC (excluding supply of 400KV ICT, CB & Isolator) for scheme of additional 501MVA 400/220/33KV ICT-III and 1X167MVA 400/220/33KV Spare ICT along with the provision of RRS at 400/220KV Koradi-II S/s under 400KV S/S (O&M) Division Koradi-II under Nagpur Zone. **EMD:** Rs. 3850584/- & **Tender Fees:** Rs. 25000/- (GST extra)

Tenders Available at : **https://srmetender.mahatransco.in;**
Due date for online submission upto: **09.07.2026, 11:00 Hrs;**
Tender Opening **09.07.2026, 12:00 Hrs** if possible
Chief Engineer
EHV PC O&M Zone Nagpur

RASHTRIYA MILITARY SCHOOL BENGALURU
(Under Ministry of Defence)
Opp Johnson Market, Richmond Town,
Bengaluru-560025, Tel: 080-25554972
E-mail: rmsbengalur1946@gmail.com
Website: www.rashtriyamilitaryschools.edu.in
SUBMISSION OF TENDER FOR UNIT SHOPS AND TAILOR SHOP AT RMS BENGALURU (RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL)
1. Tender for provision of **Unit Shop and Tailor Shop** is invited from suitable contractors (**only Ex-Servicemen**) for 450 Cadets and 115 Govt employees and their families.
2. Contractors should be able to establish Unit shop and Tailor Shop within campus. The requirement of items has been placed in School Website (**www.rashtriyamilitaryschools.edu.in**)
3. The last/ closing date of tender will be 15 days from the date of publication of the advt in Newspaper. For further details pl contact mobile No 9686115712 and School e-mail ID: **rmsbengalur1946@gmail.com**
Principal

"KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED"
(A GOVT.OF KARNATAKA UNDERTAKING)
Office of the Executive Engineer KBJNL, ARBC Division, Hungund-587 118.
Telephone NO. 08351-261110 e-mail :eearbcdivn@gmail.com
No.KBJNL/ARBC/Dn-HNG/2026-27/178 Dated:17-06-2026
SHORT TERM QUOTATION
This office has invited short-term quotation for the following works: 1)Major repairs/restoration of Electro-mechanical portion (providing earthing to sub station, Repairs to the diesel generators & overhauling of soft starters / VCB and EOT crane etc) Ramathal LIS stage-1 & 2. 2)Overhauling and Servicing of 6 nos (2+4) of vertical turbine pumps (1st stage motor capacity-1500kw & 2nd stage motor capacity-870kw / 1st stage pump discharge-2.624cumecs & 2nd stage pump discharge 1.624cumecs) Ramathal LIS stage-1 & 2. 3)Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of New 1 x 10.00 and 5 MVA 110/6.6 KV step down Power Transformer with Buy Back System of Failed 10.00 and 5 MVA 110/6.6 KV of M/s Andrew make step down Power Transformer as is where is condition at Ramthal marol 1st and 2nd stage headwork with maintenance for a period of 2 years.
Which includes itemized rate quotation by Authorized consultants /contractors. Submit the quotation including GST to this office before 5.00 PM, dated:24.06.2026.
For more information contact the office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL ARBC Division Hungund.The Quotation will be opened in the office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, ARBC Division Hungund on 29.06.2026 at 11.45AM.
e-mail :eearbcdivn@gmail.com.
Contact Phone Number, M. No. 9741654272
Sd- Executive Engineer
DIPR/BGK/RO-NO-100/KSMCA/2026-27 KBJNL, ARBC Division, Hungund.

MSIL Mysore Sales International Limited
BACC Division
MSIL House, No. 36, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru - 560 052.
Tel: 080-2226 4021-25
No. : MSIL/PRJ/040/2026-27 Date: 18.06.2026
Short-Term e-Tender Notification (Call-2)
(Through e-procurement portal)
Short-Term e-Tender (Call-2) is invited from the interested Class-1 Electrical Contractors for **Shifting of existing 3 way compact RMU and HT metering cubicle, one way LBS and transformer at Old Airport Complex, Bengaluru belonging to Mysore Sales International Limited (MSIL), Karnataka.** The last date and time for submission of Bid **is 02.07.2026 up to 3.00 p.m.** Visit **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for more details.
Sd/- General Manager (BACC), BACC Division.

GENEVA

IAEA ready to help define 'concrete steps' to implement U.S.-Iran deal

REUTERS

The International Atomic Energy Agency chief Rafael Grossi said on Thursday that the agency was ready to begin defining the "concrete steps" needed to implement a U.S.-Iran deal to end the West Asia war. Under the terms of the deal, Iran will dilute its enriched uranium stocks, the UN's nuclear watchdog said. AFP

TEHRAN

Iranian missile programme not part of talks with U.S., says Baqaei

REUTERS

Iran said on Thursday that its missile programme would not be part of future negotiations with the United States, after the two sides agreed a framework deal for ending their war. "Our missiles do not like at all to be talked about by anyone," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baqaei said on Iranian state television. AFP

TAIPEI

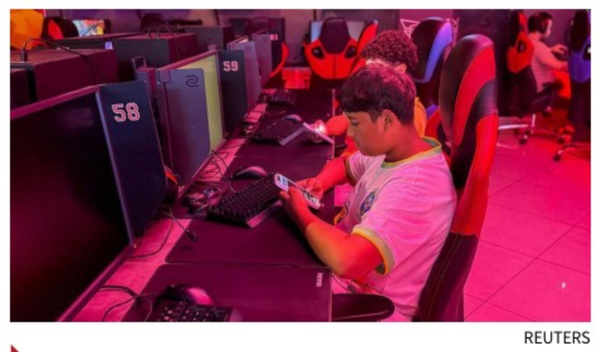
Taiwan hopes for $14 bn U.S. arms sale 'as soon as possible', says Lai

REUTERS

Taiwan's President Lai Ching-te said on Thursday he hoped the United States would approve a $14 billion arms sale "as soon as possible", reiterating that the democratic island "rejects unification" with China. Meanwhile, China warned Taiwan that "seeking independence by relying on the U.S. is a dead end". AFP

DUBAI

UAE bans social media for children under 15, joining the growing trend



REUTERS

The United Arab Emirates announced a social media ban for children under 15 on Thursday, joining a growing group of countries including Australia, Britain and Canada to take similar measures. Social media platforms will have to monitor and disable accounts created by under-15s or risk being blocked, a resolution said. AFP

Trump defends Iran deal from critics he calls 'fools'

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

Donald Trump during the signing of a deal with Iran to end the West Asia war, inside Chateau de Versailles, on Wednesday. AFP

U.S. President Donald Trump lashed out at critics of his agreement with Iran on Thursday, calling those who accused him of offering concessions to end the war "fools", ahead of negotiations in Switzerland on implementing the deal.

Oil prices tumbled after Mr. Trump and his Iranian counterpart separately signed their accord to end the West Asia war, with the Strait of Hormuz to reopen but two months of negotiations lying ahead.

In a sudden development after uncertainty over when the deal agreed earlier this week would be formally signed, Mr. Trump put his name to it in thick black ink at a candlelit dinner with French President Emmanuel Macron at the Palace of Versailles outside Paris on Wednesday.

Mr. Macron – for whom the signing at the palace, which hosted the signing of the treaty that ended the First World War, was an immense coup following his hosting of the G7 summit – shouted "bravo" as Mr. Trump signed.

"These fools, who think I haven't been tough enough on Iran, when the Stock Market Just Hit A RECORD HIGH, and Oil prices are 'tumbling' down, are either jealous, bad people, or stupid," Mr. Trump posted on social media hours after signing the deal.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian also signed the agreement, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baqaei said, adding that "now it is time to test the implementation of the agreement".

The deal should bring an end to the current U.S.-Israeli conflict with the Islamic republic, which saw five weeks of all-out war until a ceasefire early April and led to shipping being greatly restricted in the Strait of Hormuz, causing a spike in energy prices.

Ukrainian drones set a Moscow refinery ablaze; flights disrupted

The refinery is one of Russia's biggest and produces more than a third of the Moscow region's fuel; Russia says that its air defences overnight shot down 555 Ukrainian drones; 'If Ukraine is going to burn, Moscow will burn too,' says Zelenskyy

Associated Press
MOSCOW

Ukraine struck a major Moscow oil refinery on Thursday for a second time in a week, sending huge plumes of black smoke over the capital and disrupting flights at its airports in one of its biggest drone attacks since Russia's invasion over four years ago, officials said.

Ukraine has repeatedly targeted Russian oil facilities, aiming to cut Moscow's revenue for the war and make Russians feel the consequences of the invasion. Some areas have reported fuel shortages.

Pledged from West

The attack by dozens of drones came hours after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said he had held "an important coordination call" with the presidents of the U.S. and France and had won key pledges of further support from this week's G7 summit.

Critical hit: Smoke rises from an oil refinery following a Ukrainian drone attack in in Moscow on Thursday. REUTERS

"If Ukraine is going to burn, your Moscow will burn too," Mr. Zelenskyy said, adding that the attack was part of Kyiv's effort to bring Russian President Vladimir Putin to the negotiating table. "It is time to end the aggression, time to end this war."

Mr. Zelenskyy was expected to hold talks in Brussels later Thursday with NATO and EU leaders, including about the possibility of a continental system to defend against ballistic missiles.

Thick, black smoke and occasional flames spewed from the Moscow Oil Refinery amid its red-and-white smokestacks on the southeastern edge of the city, about 15 km from the Kremlin. Sooty, black rain fell on cars, according to local video.

'Fire contained'

The refinery is one of Russia's biggest, according to its official website, and produces more than a third of the Moscow region's fuel. It was last attacked by Ukrainian drones on Tuesday, catching fire, but officials said the blaze was swiftly put out.

Thursday's fire at the refinery was "largely contained," Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said, adding that remaining hotspots were being extinguished. The attack also temporarily halted flights from four Moscow airports, transport and aviation authorities said.

In the greater Moscow region, a drone hit a residential building in the town of Zhukovsky, according to Gov. Andrei Vorobyov. Buildings elsewhere were damaged by drone debris, injuring 17 people, including two children, he added.

The Russian Defence Ministry said that its air defences overnight shot down 555 Ukrainian drones over multiple regions, with almost 200 intercepted as they were approaching Moscow. That was roughly double the number of drones that Russia launched at Ukraine overnight, according to the Ukrainian air force.

Cuban govt. approves economic reforms to boost private sector

Agence France-Presse
HAVANA

The Cuban Communist Party on Wednesday approved a package of reforms aimed at opening up more sectors to private investment as the island, under pressure from Washington, undergoes a major economic crisis.

State television reported "the party's Central Committee approves the new proposals for economic and social transformations," which include attracting more capital from Cubans abroad and reducing the size of the state, after an extraordinary plenary session wherein around 20 reform proposals were discussed.

Earlier, the government-led reforms won the backing of influential former President Raul Castro.

The Cuban government's series of reforms are fast-track measures for desperate times, as the country grapples with widespread shortages of basic needs.

President Miguel Diaz-Canel presented the measures as the most substantial in years.

Hegseth blasts NATO allies, says U.S. will review forces in Europe

Agence France-Presse
BRUSSELS

U.S. Secretary of War Pete Hegseth told NATO on Thursday the Pentagon will review its force presence in Europe within six months, as he lashed out at allies over defence spending and their response to the Iran war.

"This will be a real review. It will be designed to ensure that NATO is moving fast and irreversibly toward Europe leading, stepping up to take primary responsibility for the defence of Europe," Mr. Hegseth told a meeting of NATO Defence Ministers in Brussels. "It's a review that some countries will fail, and others will pass with flying colours."

Pete Hegseth

The Pentagon chief said the move was also aimed at ensuring U.S. "access, basing and overflight are clearly delineated and assured" after some European nations imposed restrictions on U.S. forces during the Iran war.

"It was shameful. These allies, they put America's sons and daughters, our sons and daughters, at risk," he said. "There's no excuse for that."

Mr. Hegseth said going forward that Washington paying its dues to cover NATO organisational running costs – roughly some $790 million in 2026 – would be "contingent" on allies reaching spending targets. "Where other allies do not spend with urgency, our dues contributions will go down," he said.

Iran deal sparks anger among Republican hawks

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump's deal with Iran has opened a rare breach with Republican hawks, who warn that the agreement falls far short of the sweeping victory he promised and could leave Tehran richer, stronger and still able to threaten the region.

The memorandum of understanding, signed by Mr. Trump in France, is aimed at ending months of conflict, reopening the vital Strait of Hormuz and stabilising energy markets after a war that drove up oil prices and raised fears of a wider West Asia crisis.

But the terms have alarmed some of the same Republicans who spent years denouncing Democratic former President Barack Obama's 2015 nuclear agreement with Iran as dangerously weak.

They have voiced concerns that Mr. Trump is offering Iran sanctions relief, access to oil markets and the prospect of a $300 billion reconstruction fund while failing to secure firm commitments on uranium enrichment, ballistic missiles or Tehran's support for armed proxies.

Republican Senator Bill Cassidy wrote on X that former President and Republican icon Ronald Reagan would be "rolling over in his grave," calling the agreement "the worst foreign policy blunder in decades".

"Before the war, the strait was open, Iran was being crushed by sanctions, and 13 service members were still alive," he said.

Signs protesting the Iran war and its impact on fuel prices during a protest outside of the U.S. Capitol in Washington DC. AFP

"Now, 13 Americans are dead, families have paid billions at the pump, sanctions will be lifted, and the bombing has stopped."

Mr. Trump has defended the deal as a practical way to reopen one of the world's most important energy chokepoints, through which about a fifth of global crude normally passes. He said the agreement was not final and warned that the United States could resume strikes if negotiations fail.

"It's a memorandum of understanding, and if I don't like it, we'll go back to shooting at them, dropping bombs on their head," Mr. Trump told pressmen on Wednesday at a Group of Seven summit in Evian, in eastern France.

Republican Senator Ted Cruz warned urged Trump not to "suddenly come in with massive buckets of cash to let them rebuild and become a threat to America again".

Senator Lindsey Graham said the deal opened the Strait of Hormuz, suspended hostilities and created space to test whether diplomacy could curb Iran's nuclear ambitions.

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER No.02/2026-27

Sealed Tenders are invited in two part i.e. (i) Techno Commercial bid & (ii) Price bid in separate sealed envelopes from the eligible bidders **(Producers, refurbishers or recyclers registered with SPCB / CPCB having valid authorization as applicable under E-Waste management Rules 2022 and subsequent orders/letters issued from time to time)** having PAN and GST Registration Certificate for the work as mentioned below.

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Disposal of Old & Unserviceable Computers, Peripherals & Other Electronic Items (E-Waste) on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS"	6,000.00 +18% (GST) = 7080.00	12,500/-

For details of the tender documents, terms & conditions and corrigendum etc. please visit our website - **www.ohpcltd.com** from **Dt. 23.06.2026.**

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No. T9/T-2098/2026-C Dt.19.06.2026

On behalf of UT Administration of Lakshadweep, CoPA invites online Bids for **"Project Supervision Services for the projects at Kadmath & Kalpeni, Lakshadweep islands** (Re-Tender)"

For details, visit -
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Brief E-TENDER NOTICE

e-Tender Notice No. SHAR / CMD / E / H 2687208 / 2026-27 Date: 15/06/2026

On behalf of President of India, Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for the following works:

Sl. No.	Brief Name of work	Value (Rs)
1	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 18 Nos. of 11kV / 433V outdoor Transformers. (Electrical work).	420.88 Lakhs

Last date for sale (Tender documents can be downloaded) up to **03/07/2026 14:30 hrs**. For eligibility criteria and other details, interested tenderers may please refer to the detailed bilingual (Hindi-English) Notice Inviting Tenders (NIT) on the website **https://www.isro.gov.in/Tenders.html** and tender free view at **https://www.tenderwizard.com/isro** .

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Tenders are invited through e-Tendering in SRM Two Bid system from the registered vendors for Supply of following:

Tender No. & Description of Material	Estimated Amount (in Rs. Lakhs) / Tender Fee (in Rs.)	Due Date & Time (Hrs.) for Submission & Opening of Tender
SP/T-16/0626_TKC1 RFx 7000040352 (3rd Call) for Work of Replacement of existing 0.4 ACSR Deer/ Zebra conductor along with hardwares by High Performance Conductor (HPC) along with hardwares of 1) 220kV Bhosari-I- Bhosari-II, 2) 220kV Bhosari-II - Telco, 3) 220kV Bhosari-I - Century Enka, 4) 220kV Century Enka-Khadki, 5) 220kV Khadki-VSNL, 6) 220kV VSNL-Lonikand-II & 7) 220kV Bhosari-I - Lonikand - II along with strengthening of bays at respective substation & allied equipment, hardware at associated substations under EHV PC O&M Zone, Pune.	**Rs. 9243.83 Lakhs** (Incl. GST) **Rs. 7833.76 Lakhs** (Excl. GST) 25,000.00+GST	08.07.2026 18:00 Hrs 08.07.2026 18:05 Hrs

Contact Person: Office of the Executive Engineer (TKC1)
CPA, C.O. MSETCL, 1st Floor, Prakashgad Building, Bandra (E), Mumbai. Tel. No.: 022-69852717
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For further details visit our website **https://srmetender.mahatransco.in/**
Any further amendments/clarifications will be published on the MSETCL website **www.mahatransco.in**. & **https://srmetender.mahatransco.in/** . Bidders are therefore requested to check these websites for further updates.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (P&C)

NARROW VICTORY

Ghana edges Panama through an injury-time winner

REUTERS

Ghana scored a dramatic 1-0 victory over Panama in their opening World Cup Group L clash in Toronto on Wednesday. Caleb Yirenkyi bundled in the winning goal in the fifth minute of stoppage time, sending thousands of Ghanaians in Canada's largest city into a frenzy and settling an otherwise attritional battle.

WINNING START

Diaz shines as Colombia battles past debutant Uzbekistan

AP

Colombia beat debutant Uzbekistan 3-1 in their opening World Cup Group K game on Wednesday, thanks to an inspired performance from Luis Diaz. He provided an assist, a goal and also hit the post as the Colombians resisted the battling Uzbeks. The win put Colombia top of a group that also has Portugal and DR Congo.

BLACK CAPS' DAY

Phillips' maiden ton, Henry's strikes put Kiwis in command

REUTERS

Matt Henry captured the prized wickets of Joe Root and Harry Brook as New Zealand built on Glenn Phillips' maiden Test century on the second day of the second Test at the Oval. **The scores:** New Zealand 391 in 96.2 overs (Mitchell 44, Blundell 51, Phillips 100, Jamieson 41) vs. England 222/6 in 59 overs (Gay 53, Root 46).

EXCITING CONTEST

Dercksen leads South Africa's chase; Sana's allround effort in vain

GETTY IMAGES

South Africa held its nerve to clinch a two-wicket win over Pakistan in an ICC T20 World Cup match in Birmingham on Wednesday. **The scores:** Pakistan 126/9 in 20 overs (Fatima Sana 55 n.o., Marizanne Kapp 3/23) lost to South Africa 127/8 in 16.5 overs (Annerie Dercksen 52, Fatima Sana 3/16); **Toss:** Pakistan; **PoM:** Dercksen.

Ghosting in: Kane takes advantage of slack marking by Croatia to head in England's second. REUTERS

England beats Croatia after a brief stutter

Kane puts the Three Lions ahead twice in the first half only for the 2018 finalist to draw level before Bellingham and Rashford settle the game

FIFA WORLD CUP

Agence France-Presse
ARLINGTON

Harry Kane scored twice in the first half as England eventually saw off Croatia 4-2 to launch its World Cup title assault in Texas on Wednesday.

Jude Bellingham, immediately after half-time, and substitute Marcus Rashford with five minutes to go ensured a winning start for Thomas Tuchel's side after Croatia had fought back to level at 2-2.

The prolific Kane twice put England ahead in the first half – one a retaken penalty – only for Martin Baturina and Petar Musa to hit back for Croatia.

With both sides shaky at the back, the second half threatened another goal glut, Bellingham needing just two minutes to put England ahead again. Tuchel's side never looked back after that at the impressive air-conditioned home of Dallas Cowboys.

THE RESULTS

Group K: Uzbekistan 1 (Fayzullaev 60) lost to Colombia 3 (Munoz 40, Diaz 65, Campaz 90+9).
Group L: England 4 (Kane 12-pen, 42, Bellingham 47, Rashford 85) bt Croatia 2 (Baturina 36, Musa 45+5); Ghana 1 (Yirenkyi 90+5) bt Panama 0.
Group A: Czechia 1 (Sadilek 6) drew with South Africa 1 (Mokoena 83-pen).

Stat attack

0 For the sixth time in the World Cup, Ronaldo had no shots on target

1 England registered its first 4-2 win in a World Cup match since the 1966 final (vs. West Germany)

2 Kane is the second England player to score in three editions (2018, 2022, 2026) after Beckham (1998, 2002, 2006)

2 Rashford became the first Englishman to net two goals as a substitute in the World Cup

2 Diaz is the second Colombian with a goal and an assist in a World Cup game after James Rodriguez (vs. Japan, 2014)

4 Perisic joins Messi as the only players to have assisted a goal across four World Cups

4 Cannavaro is only the fourth (after Beckenbauer, Blokhin and van Basten) to win the Ballon d'Or and take part in the World Cup as a player (Italy) and coach (Uzbekistan)

5 Kane has now scored the most penalties in World Cup history (excluding shootouts)

24y 285d Saka is the fourth youngest to win 50 England caps after Rooney (23y 159d), Owen (23y 179d) and Sterling (24y 180d)

Compiled by **ANIRUDH VELAMURI**

Stars steal the show in opening act

Ayon Sengupta
ATLANTA

Lighting it up: Messi produced a sensational hat-trick against Algeria while Mbappe, Haaland and Kane scored a brace each in their respective opening encounters. AP & GETTY IMAGES

The World Cup has opened like an old Broadway theatre suddenly finding new light. Some curtains have risen on unfamiliar faces, some scripts have been torn up before the second act, and yet, at the centre of the stage, football's great names have refused to fade into the background.

This was supposed to be a tournament stretched wide by expansion, vulnerable to mismatches. But the new arrivals and outsiders have proved they have not come as decoration.

But every World Cup also needs its constellations. It needs the players whose names pull millions towards a match before the kick-off. And in that sense, too, this tournament has been blessed early.

Evergreen

Lionel Messi has once again made time look negotiable. Messi, who will turn 39 next Wednesday, no longer moves like a storm sweeping across the grass. He is more like a watchmaker now, measuring space in tiny, impossible units, appearing where the game needs a key rather than a hammer. Argentina's win over Algeria carried the calm of champions who still know their old compass works. Messi's hat-trick pulled him level with Miroslav Klose as the World Cup's all-time leading scorer.

Hours earlier, France's Kylian Mbappe had briefly surpassed the Argentine after striking twice against a resolute Senegalese defence.

He remains football's lightning strike with his sudden, explosive movement that is almost impossible to contain once he gathers momentum.

For Norway, returning to the World Cup after 28 years, Erling Haaland attacks the game like a door waiting to be kicked open. His football is not ornate. It's an avalanche, all speed, mass and certainty.

The striker scored twice in a 4-1 victory over Iraq, becoming the focal point of a Norwegian side many regard as the country's most talented generation. His movement stretched the Iraqi defence, his finishing punished every mistake, and his presence has transformed Norway from an outsider into a genuine threat.

Harry Kane, meanwhile, offered England reassurance. Against Croatia, in a 4-2 win that could become a marker for what this team hopes to be, Kane scored twice and equalled Gary Lineker's England World Cup scoring record of 10 goals. He finished with seven shots, three on target, created two chances and even produced a goal-line clearance in stoppage time, showing the world that England's ambitions are built on something stronger than hope.

But not every great name has enjoyed the same beginning. Cristiano Ronaldo, who joined Messi as the only player to feature in six World Cups, struggled to impose himself in Portugal's 1-1 draw against DR Congo.

Lacklustre

The five-time Ballon d'Or winner looked flat, unable to summon the electricity that has so often been the antidote to Portuguese anxiety.

This contrast has made the opening week of the World Cup more intriguing. The tournament is bigger than ever, but the examination remains the same.

Messi, Mbappe, Haaland and Kane have passed the first test with distinction. Ronaldo, for now, still has work left on his paper.

Saturday's matches

GROUP D
USA vs. **Australia**, 00.30 a.m.
Turkiye vs. **Paraguay**, 8.30 a.m.
GROUP C
Scotland vs. **Morocco**, 3.30 a.m.
Brazil vs. **Haiti**, 6 a.m.
GROUP F
Netherlands vs. **Sweden** 10.30 p.m.

The day and time(s) pertain to India

Brazil badly needs a win over Haiti

Ayon Sengupta

Brazil enters its second Group C game with many questions to answer, despite avoiding defeat in its opener. The 1-1 draw against Morocco was a reminder that reputation alone will not carry teams through in this World Cup. And for the first time since the quarterfinal defeat to France in 2006, Brazil was outshot in a World Cup match, facing 14 attempts while managing only 12 of its own.

It ended a run of 22 consecutive World Cup games in which the Selecao had enjoyed the advantage, underlining why Carlo Ancelotti may need to bring in wholesale changes.

For Haiti, the challenge is of a different magnitude. The Caribbean nation waited 54 years to return to the World Cup after its only previous appearance in West Germany in 1974. Many believed its best chance of reaching the knockout rounds rested on getting something from the opening match against Scotland, but John McGinn's deflected winner condemned Sebastien Migne's side to a narrow 1-0 defeat.

Brazil sits 80 places above Haiti in the FIFA rankings. Haiti's task is to ensure it does not feel that way on the pitch, while for Brazil, a win is a must.

Czechia and South Africa stay alive after a dour stalemate

Ayon Sengupta
ATLANTA

Super quick: Czechia's Sadilek slots it in in the sixth minute for the tournament's fastest goal so far. REUTERS

World Cups are never won in the second group match, but they can certainly be lost there. That reality hung heavily over South Africa and Czechia as they looked to keep their tournament alive here on Thursday.

South Africa looked strangely unsettled in the opening exchanges, and Czechia deservedly struck the fastest goal of the tournament.

Adam Hlozek chased down a loose ball on the right and fed it to the edge of the area, where Michael Sadilek exchanged quick passes with Filip Sojka before calmly sliding his effort beyond Ronwen Williams.

It was another early setback for Bafana Bafana, who had also fallen behind in the opening stages of their defeat to Mexico.

South Africa's breakthrough finally arrived late in the second half when it was awarded a penalty by American referee Tori Penso, the second woman to officiate in a men's World Cup match, after Pavel Sulc was adjudged to have handled the ball inside the area.

Teboho Mokoena stepped up and calmly sent Kovar the wrong way, restoring parity and breathing renewed life into South Africa.

Both sides sensed an opportunity and pushed for a winner, but urgency failed to compensate for a lack of precision in the final third.

The draw solved little, but it ensured that neither South Africa nor Czechia left Atlanta with its dreams shattered.

Dennis Amiss — the man who introduced helmet to cricket

CRICKET

P.K. Ajith Kumar
LEEDS

Dennis Amiss begins with an apology.

"I have a funeral to attend, so I am afraid I have to leave at 11 o'clock," he says at the picturesque Edgbaston Golf Club in Birmingham on a slightly windy, but glorious early English summer morning.

It is only 10. There is plenty of time, then.

Some 45 minutes and a nice cup of English tea later, time isn't enough, actually.

Fascinating tales

The 83-year-old has so much to tell. So many fascinating tales and insights into cricket.

After all, he is the first batter to score an ODI hundred. He is the first batter to wear a helmet. He was part of Kerry Packer's World Series Cricket that revolutionised cricket.

He scored double hundreds against ferocious fast bowlers, got lessons from Bishan Singh Bedi on playing spin, and was an England selector.

Bedi helped him out on England's tour of India in 1972-73. "It happened on our first tour with Tony Lewis as captain and you had the four great spinners – Bedi, Chandrasekhar, Prasanna and Venkataraghavan – and the wickets turned and we had not come across pitches like that against such great bowlers," Amiss, who scored 3612 runs from 50 Tests with 11 hundreds and as many fifties, tells *The Hindu*.

Amiss. P.K. AJITH KUMAR

"And we were going to Pakistan after the Indian tour. I was left out for the last Test."

Bedi came up to him at Mumbai's Brabourne Stadium, the venue of the last Test.

"Why were you not batting well, he asked me," recalls Amiss. "At the beginning of the season, we thought you would be the main batter. And I said, 'Well, you know, you bowl well at me and you have got me out. The only thing is I can't practise because the nets are in the middle."

Bedi asked Amiss to leave it to him. "I will tell you what to do," says Amiss.

"He came back later and said, 'Pras, Venkat, and I will bowl at you, but not Chandrasekhar.' It was very kind of Bish, but I think that he was chastised for that."

How did he get the idea of wearing a helmet while batting?

"At Packer's World Series, there were 16 bowlers who could all bowl at 90 miles an hour and I was at a shop while talking to Tony Greig," says Amiss.

"There were motorcycle helmets which were then adapted for cricket. Tony told me that Packer approved the idea".

Today's match

Southampton, 11 p.m. IST
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 4
New Zealand 4 | Ireland 0

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 & JIOHOTSTAR

Smriti keeps me calm, says Shafali

P.K. Ajith Kumar
LEEDS

Smriti Mandhana got a welcome fifty for India in the opening match against Pakistan at Edgbaston. Her opening partner Shafali scored a fifty against the Netherlands at Headingley that was even more welcome.

The younger one of the most feared opening duos in women's cricket needed that knock as much as her team. For India to have a strong campaign in the ICC T20 World Cup, Shafali's quick runs at the top of the order would be extremely handy.

She is a fearless batter. She is a bit restless, too, and would love to hit every ball for a six. But her senior partner would have none of it. And Shafali listens to Smriti's advice. She admitted as much after their 115-run stand helped India post a comfortable victory against the Netherlands.

"She keeps me calm," said Shafali. "She asks me to play along the ground. She has the best seat where she could tell me what is right or wrong with my shots. I also tell her about her batting."

Playing together for so long has helped. "We have been playing with each other for so many years, we both know who needs to be on strike for a specific bowler. We also know how to rotate the strike," said Shafali.

Shafali and Smriti. GETTY IMAGES

She said it felt good to have a big partnership after failing to get one in the series in England prior to the World Cup. "We were both talking about it," she revealed. "After the previous match, I worked a lot in the nets and tried to mentally control myself. We have many crucial matches coming up and we both are ready to tackle them."

And, yes, she is enjoying being the golden arm for the team. "I would like to contribute as much as I can," she smiled. "We just have to lift that World Cup".

INBRIEF

India storms into final of World team snooker c'ship

India outclassed defending champion Hong Kong China 3-1 to storm into the final of the World team snooker championship at Guangdong (China) on Thursday. In the title clash, India will take on the winner of the other semifinal between China-A and Korea.

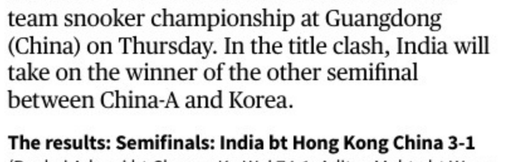
The results: Semifinals: India bt Hong Kong China 3-1 (Pankaj Advani bt Cheung Ka Wai 74-1; Aditya Mehta bt Wang Yuchen 67(67)-9; Advani & Mehta lost to Yuchen & Wan Nansen Sin Man 59-68; Advani bt Yuchen 88(74)-0).

Quarterfinals: India bt China 'B' 3-2 (Advani bt Zhou Jinhao 66(66)-3; Mehta lost to Ma Hailong 0-136(136); Advani & Mehta bt Hailong & Xu Jianhao 70-55; Advani lost to Hailong 0-98(94); Mehta bt Jinhao 63(58)-30).

Indian table tennis team for Asian Games named

G. Sathiyan and Sreeja Akula will spearhead the Indian table tennis team's campaign in the men's and women's sections respectively at the Asian Games, to be held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, from September 20 to 28. As reserves in men's section, Ankur Bhattacharjee and Ronit Bhanja will remain on standby.

The team: Men: G. Sathiyan, Harmeet Desai, Manav Thakkar, Manush Shah, Payas Jain.
Women: Sreeja Akula, Yashaswini Ghorpade, Diya Chitale, Sutirtha Mukherjee, Syndrela Das.



Veteran cricket journalist Qamar Ahmed passes away

Qamar Ahmed, one of the most respected cricket journalists from Pakistan, passed away in Karachi on Thursday. He was 88. Qamar, who had played first-class cricket, covered more than 400 Test matches across the world for newspapers and magazines and also worked for the *BBC*. Among his many achievements, Qamar had witnessed Sunil Gavaskar's 10,000th Test run in 1987, Anil Kumble's 10 for 74 in 1999, the 1000th and 2000th Test matches.

Zara takes a one-stroke lead over Lavanya

Amateur Zara Anand shot a two-under 66 second round to take the lead in the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour 2026 Leg 8 at the Bangalore Golf Club on Thursday. Lavanya Jadon (four-under 132 overall) lies second, two strokes behind the leader. Smriti Bhargav and Durga Nittur are joint third at 133.

BCCI mulls early start to IPL from next year: Saikia

In its bid to beat the extreme May heat in most parts of the country, the BCCI is contemplating an early start to the IPL, eyeing a March 10-May 15 window for future editions starting next year, said Board secretary Devajit Saikia. However, he made it clear that due to international calender constraints, the number of matches will remain 74 and not be increased to 94.

Asian fencing championships in New Delhi from today

C.A. Bhavani Devi will spearhead India's 24-member squad in the 26th senior fencing Asian Championships, which will kick off at the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on Friday. The continental event, scheduled from June 19 to 24, will feature 32 countries and serve as a direct qualifier for the upcoming Asian Games.

LIVE TELECAST

FIFA World Cup: Unite8 Sports 1, 2 & Z5 App, 6.30 a.m. 12.30 a.m. 3.30 & 6 a.m. (Saturday)
Tri-series: Sri Lanka-A vs Afghanistan-A, Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 10 a.m.
Bangladesh vs Australia: 2nd T20I, FanCode, 1.30 p.m.
England vs New Zealand: 2nd Test, day 3, Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 3.30 p.m.
Women's T20 World Cup: Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 11 p.m.

Milestone man Manpreet in no mood to slow down

The Indian midfielder is now eyeing the upcoming World Cup and Asian Games to further burnish his credentials as one of the fittest players in world hockey in a hectic year

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

Focused: With age, I know I have to work extra hard to keep up with everyone else, says Manpreet. FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

Having crossed the milestone of 413 international matches and becoming the highest-capped Indian hockey player, Manpreet Singh is in no mood to slow down.

With his landmark coming in India's first Pro League victory of the season against reigning world champion Germany on Wednesday, the Indian midfielder is now eyeing the upcoming World Cup and Asian Games to further burnish his credentials as one of the fittest players in world hockey.

"This year is very important for us. The Pro league matches are already on and playing England and Pakistan will be very useful because they are in our group in the World Cup, for which we will be back here next month," Manpreet said during an interaction with select media on Thursday.

"England has been doing well so those games will be important. Then there will be Asian Games soon after which is the ticket to LA Olympics.

"As for fitness, there is no alternative. World hockey today is at a level where if you are not at peak fitness all the time, you cannot survive.

"With age, I know I have to work extra hard to keep up with everyone else and I have worked a lot on my fitness over the years because if I don't I won't be able to remain in the team.

"It's really that simple and something the coach has also repeatedly made clear – your fitness levels will decide your spot in the side," he added.

There had been a lot of talk around the milestone in the last few months but Manpreet insisted it did not matter. "My focus has always been on maintaining my fitness. It is a big honour, playing 413 matches over 15 years, and I am proud of it but it doesn't change anything on field.

"The number of caps or captain's band doesn't really matter.

"My focus has always been on how to improve as a team and I will continue doing that. It doesn't mean I stop listening to others," he declared.

Minakshi makes it to 51kg quarterfinals

BOXING

Press Trust of India
GUIYANG (CHINA)

India's Minakshi advanced to the 51kg quarterfinals in the boxing World Cup (Stage 2), on Thursday.

Minakshi, the reigning 48kg World champion and current World No. 1 in that division, is transitioning into the Olympic 51kg class in the ongoing event. She registered a 5-0 unanimous decision victory over Poland's Natalia Kuczewska.

Abhinash Jamwal (65kg) lost 0-5 to Kyrgyzstan's Mirzokhid Imamnazarov.

So far, five Indians – Nikhil (55kg), Deepak (70kg), Minakshi (51kg), Prachi (57kg), and Saneh (65kg) – have advanced to the quarterfinals.

Jyoti (48kg) and Jugnoo (85kg) have already assured medals for the country by progressing into the semifinals.

Minakshi will square off against Kazakhstan's Alua Balkibekova, Saneh will face Poland's Kinga Krowka, Prachi will take on Chinese Taipei's Shih Yi Wu while Nikhil (55kg) will clash with Azerbaijan's Amin Mammadzada.

Indian women put it across Uruguay

Press Trust of India
AUCKLAND

India bounced back after conceding an early goal to defeat Uruguay 3-2 and finish at the top of Pool A in the FIH Women's Nations Cup New Zealand, on Thursday. India recorded a third consecutive victory, having earlier defeated USA and Japan.

USA finished second and joined India in the semifinals. India will take on the winner of the contest between Chile and Korea in the last-four stage on Saturday.

The contest also marked a memorable moment for Neha, who completed her 200th appearance for India.

The result: India 3 (Deepika 24-PC, 56, Deepika Soreng 43) bt Uruguay 2 (Chiara Appennino 13-PC, Manuela Vilar 55).

Gurnoor validates selectors' decision to fast-track him into national side

CRICKET

N. Sudarshan
LUCKNOW

Intelligent: Gurnoor feels yorkers are very useful, especially when bowling against good hitters. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Well begun is half done.

Cricket careers do not necessarily conform to this saying, for they are long, arduous and years-long projects. But Gurnoor Brar has certainly begun well, and made a fine first impression.

In his opening two international outings, the 26-year-old has taken three wickets each. Importantly, he has bowled with good pace and bounce, and showcased variety, validating the selectors' decision to fast-track his entry into the National team.

"Results don't matter to me, preparation does," Gurnoor declared after India's 170-run victory over Afghanistan in the second ODI here on Wednesday.

"[What matters is] whether I can repeat this every day. I want to do better and I know that I can. Hopefully, in the coming matches, I will do better."

The two matches against the Afghans were Gurnoor's first taste of competitive action in nearly five months. He was with Gujarat Titans – also captained by Shubman Gill – for the entirety of the IPL but did not get a game.

"There is a very good atmosphere at GT," he said. "There is [Ashish] Nehra sir, [Kagiso] Rabada, [Mohammed] Siraj, Ishant Sharma... so, you get to learn a lot.

"Like everyone, I want to play. I was waiting for my chance there. But at the same time, I was also learning things. Instead of IPL, by god's grace, I got this opportunity to play for India and show my skills."

Gurnoor's USP is his hit-the-deck style, but over the past week, he has shown that there is more to him, including fuller-length deliveries and yorkers.

"It's not just about bowling fast, fast, fast," the Punjab pacer explained. "Many batters like pace, especially when there is not much in the wicket. So it is about planning.

"According to me, every fast bowler should work on yorkers. At the back end of the innings, yorkers are very useful, especially when you have good hitters. The management and the bowling coach back us a lot. And with that, we can bowl more freely".

Abhay & Velavan start with a win

Sports Bureau

India's top men's pair of Abhay Singh and Velavan Senthilkumar got off to a winning start in its title defence at the third Asian doubles squash championships, at Sarawak (Malaysia) on Thursday.

The top-seeded duo eased past South Korea's Oh Seojin and Min Woo Lee 11-7, 11-10 in a Pool-A contest.

Rahul Baitha and Suraj Chand defeated Singapore's Samuel Quek Wei Yi and Justin Yap 11-3, 11-3 but lost to Japan's Naoki Hayashi and Ren Makino 8-11, 11-8, 6-11 in Pool-B.

In mixed doubles, second seeds Velavan and Joshna Chinappa thumped Cordelia Hsu and Pan Hong Rui (Taipei) 11-2, 11-3 in Pool-B and in women's doubles, second-ranked Joshna and Rathika Seelan won all three outings.

SNAPSHOTS

Ashmita, Anmol enter quarterfinals

MACAU: Anmol Kharb and Ashmita Chaliha advanced to the women's singles quarterfinals while the country's challenge ended in other sections at the Macau Open Super 300 badminton on Thursday.

Other results (pre-quarters): Women: Kim Min Sun (Kor) bt Rakshitha Sree Santhosh Ramraj 21-15, 21-9; Kim Min Ji (Kor) bt Shriyanshi Valishetty 21-16, 21-16; Park Ga Eu (Kor) bt Isharani Baruah 21-19, 23-21.
Men: Dong Tian Yao (Chn) bt Tharun Mannepalli 24-22, 21-15; Hu Zhe An (Chn) bt Rounak Chouhan 21-13, 21-17.
Mixed doubles: Li Hong Yi & Huang Ke Xin (Chn) bt Ishaan Bhatnagar & Shruti Mishra 19-21, 22-20, 21-16.

Aryan makes CWG grade

AHMEDABAD: Aryan Nehra smashed his two-year-old men's 1500m freestyle record to rewrite the 'best Indian time' and win gold at the National aquatics on Thursday.

The results (winners only): Men: 1500m freestyle: Aryan Nehra (Guj) 15:14.88 (NMR, Old 15:29.76, 2023); **400m medley:** Shoan Ganguly (Kar) 4:24.80; **4x100m medley relay:** Tamil Nadu (MJ Praveen Kumar Praveen, Danush Suresh, B. Benedicton Rohit, Adhithya Dinesh) 3:44.74 (NMR, Old 3:45.09, 2025). **Women: 100m freestyle:** Dhinidhi Desinghu (Kar) 56.57 (NMR, Old 56.78, Dhinidhi, 2025); **400m freestyle:** Aditi Hegde (Mah) 4:25.31; **200m backstroke:** Pratyasa Ray (Odi) 2:20.22.

MRF Limited receives FIA 3-star environmental accreditation

CHENNAI: MRF Limited has been awarded the prestigious three-star level of the FIA Environmental Accreditation Programme, marking a significant milestone in the company's continuing presence in global motorsport. The certification follows an audit conducted under the FIA Environmental Accreditation framework. The FIA audit recognised MRF's structured approach to responsible manufacturing practices across its motorsport tyre operations.

Neeraj returns to 'natural technique' in his first outing of the year

ATHLETICS

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

Neeraj Chopra who will make his first competitive public appearance in almost nine months on Friday, admitted it had been a long, introspective hiatus with several changes, declared he was fit and raring to go and confirmed that the Asian Games was definitely part of his plans for the year ahead.

Speaking during a virtual media interaction ahead of his season opener at the Doha Diamond League, Neeraj was candid enough to acknowledge that it was a last-minute decision to participate.

"I am a little nervous talking to so many people after such a long time! We started throwing one and half months ago and took our time. I talked to the Doha organisers and asked them if it was possible if I let them know in a very short period, like one week before (the event). They said yes and then we decided after my last session, let's compete in Doha," Neeraj explained.

Neeraj. DIAMOND LEAGUE

His last outing was at the Tokyo World Championships in September 2025, where Neeraj finished a disappointing eighth, and admitted in hindsight it was perhaps not the best decision. "I had some injury before Tokyo, we worked on it and I competed but I don't think it was a good decision. I knew I had a problem but I still went ahead because it was the last competition of the season.

> I had some injury before Tokyo, we worked on it and I competed but I don't think it was a good decision

"As athletes, there is always some niggle we struggle with, we try to save that injury and we feel another one. So then I had in my ankle, then somewhere in the shoulder. Then I sat with my team, my physio and we worked on every part."

Asked about his training so far and the split from the legendary Jan Zelezny after just one season, Chopra insisted he was now in a good space.

"Jan Zelzny was a great athlete and he was a really good coach also but we worked on few specific things. I'm happy that I could break the 90m mark with him.

"After Tokyo, I had to stay in one place for the season and that was not possible for me. So we decided that maybe I need to work with my ideas and now I work with my Indian coach (Jaiveer Chaudhary).

"I'm working on my natural technique. He is my senior, I started javelin with him.

"Now we are working on what I had originally when I started. We are not working on anything specific or very deep.

" I have a good team around me, I feel very good," he said, revealing that the Asian Games were part of his calendar for the year.